



THE PARTICIPANTS OF BURLINGTON LITTLE LEAGUE, WHO FOR SEASONS TO COME WILL ENJOY THE CAMARADERIE AND COMPETITION OF THE GAME OF BASEBALL, OWE A LASTING DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO THE COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO BY WAY OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION OF LABOR, MATERIAL AND TIME HAVE MADE THESE FIELDS AND DIGGINGS A GIFT TO THE YOUTH OF THE BURLINGTON AREA.

EBBERS FIELD



CITY OF BURLINGTON

2010-2014 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Burlington, WI

July 2010



#2406

City of Burlington

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan



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Bear Meadows Park 1

This natural area is located at the end of Monica Avenue and contains approximately 4.24 acres. The site is heavily wooded and has steep slopes creating a large depression. The site has very little recreation value other than for protection of its natural resources.

Bear Meadows Park 2

This park is located on Cooper Hawk Drive and contains approximately 1.66 acres. The site is heavily wooded and contains an ATC power line. The site has very steep slopes and provides little recreation value other than the protection of natural resources.

McCanna Park 2

This park is located on STH 11 directly across from McCanna Parkway and McCanna Park 1. The approximately 1.20 acre parcel is adjacent to a large wetland and contains predominantly general open space. The bicycle trail runs through this site, but it has no other improvements.

McCanna Wetland Preserve

This park is located on Browns Lake Drive and contains approximately 7.37 acres. The site is predominantly wetland or shallow pond area. There is little recreation value other than the protection of natural resources. An ATC power line runs through the site connecting to the north and south.

2.1.6 School Parks

The information for this section was first used in a 2005 parks inventory conducted by Meehan & Company and verified with assistance from the City and SAA staff.

Catholic Central High School Practice Field

Classified as a "Community Playfield", the Catholic Central High School Practice Field is largely an open grass area.

Facilities at Catholic Central High School Practice Field Include:

- Baseball field with (cyclone fence) backstop
- Football practice field
- Sandlot baseball field with backstop

Cooper Elementary School

This is a "Neighborhood Playground" area.

Facilities include:

- Blacktop play area with associated game markings
- Eight (8) place swing set
- Two (2) modular sets
- Three (3) picnic tables
- Parallel bars

Burlington High School

This school was built in 2000, on an approximate 56 acres site. It lies adjacent to Gateway Technical College and the Aurora Wellness Center. Originally, tennis courts and a football field with a surrounding track were built. In 2004, construction began on lights, bleachers, restroom/concession stand, baseball, softball and associated open space practice fields.

Facilities include:

- Eight (8) tennis courts
- Lighted football field with bleachers seating for 3000
- Running track with associated field event areas
- Baseball field – lighted
- Two (2) softball fields
- Concession/restroom building
- Paved parking lot

Dr. Edward Dyer School

This “Neighborhood Playground” area is essentially an open grass play area. The playground is contiguous to the undeveloped West Edge Park.

Facilities at the Burlington Dyer School include:

- Four (4) sandlot ball (cyclone fence) backstops which are utilized by girl’s softball as well as various youth baseball programs for practice fields
- School parking lot, paved with associated game markings
- Three (3) trash barrels
- Five (5) picnic tables
- Six (6) bike racks
- Three (3) basketball standards with backboards
- Play structure with various climbing apparatus

Karcher Middle School

Classified as a “Community Playfield”, Karcher Middle School facilities are utilized heavily by the school district. Public use of the facilities is restricted to non-school hours. The focal point of the Karcher Middle School area is the football field and associated running track area. The City provided the playground structure that currently exists on school grounds.

Facilities at Karcher Middle School include:

- Lighted football field (eight poles-ninety-six lights)
- Electric scoreboard
- Score box area with new press box
- Concrete section of bleachers
- Two (2) combination metal/wood bleacher sections
- Paved running track area surrounding the football field
- Open practice area
- Sandlot baseball backstop
- Three (3) equipment storage buildings

- Four (4) lighted tennis courts (four light poles)
- Cyclone fencing surrounding the tennis courts
- Two (2) basketball standards
- Playground structure

St. Charles Grade School

This recreational area is classified as a “Neighborhood Playground” with minimal facilities available.

Facilities at St. Charles Grade School include:

- Blacktop (asphalt) play area that also serves as a parking lot
- Three (3) basketball standards with backboards

St. John’s Lutheran School

This “Neighborhood Playground” has the benefit of a variety of newer playground apparatus and it is well organized.

Facilities at St. John’s Lutheran School include:

- Four (4) place swing set
- Merry -go-round
- Slide
- Three (3) monkey bar climbing apparatus
- Two (2) teeter-totters
- Three (3) tire climbing apparatus
- Fun barrel ball game
- Small blacktop play area with associated game markings
- Open grass play area with two (2) soccer goals
- Tot lot structure
- Three (3) basketball standards with backboards

St. Mary’s Grade/High School

Classified as a “Neighborhood Playground”, the site can be broken into two distinct recreational areas.

Facilities included at the grade school portion of St. Mary’s Grade/High School are:

- Large blacktop play area with associated markings for various games
- Three (3) basketball standards
- Three (3) modular play sets – one (1) wooden

The second distinct area associated with this recreational facility is the high school football field which includes the following facilities:

- Lighted football field (eight light posts – fifty –six lights)
- Two (2) bleacher sections
- Electric scoreboard
- Scorer box

- Concession stand
- Playground structure

Waller Elementary School

This particular “Neighborhood Playground site is one of the most fully developed of the areas classified as “Neighborhood Playgrounds” in the City of Burlington.

Facilities at Waller Elementary School include:

- Three (3) ball fields which are utilized by the City of Burlington Little League and Minor League programs
- Each ball field has a cyclone fence backstop and dugout benches
- Blacktop play area which includes:
 - Four (4) Half-court basketball courts
 - Modular play equipment
 - Safety village course
 - Five (5) bicycle racks
 - Brick storage shed

2.1.7 Linear Parks (Trail Corridors)

A linear park is an area developed for one or more modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, etc. County and state trails are discussed in Section 2.4.

Burlington Riverwalk

The Burlington Riverwalk is the main trail corridor owned and maintained by the City. This trail system connects several parks including Riverside Park, Wehmhoff Jucker Park, Echo Park, Benson Park (Racine County), and the Burlington High School.

Beloit Pedestrian Way

This undeveloped corridor is a heavily wooded right-of-way on the north side of the Burlington Industrial park. If developed, the City could connect Westedge Park and the residential area south of Hillside Drive to Sunset Park and the pedestrian system on Beloit Street.

2.1.8 Private Parks

Catholic Cemetery

This field is used by the Catholic high school for sporting events and is not regularly available for public city use.

Lavelle Industries

As of 2010, this facility was in the process of being dismantled and abandoned. The Burlington Little League has possession of the existing backstop and plans to utilize this amenity in a new location.

City of Burlington



Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

1 INTRODUCTION

This plan updates and replaces the City of Burlington Outdoor Recreation Plan Update and Amendment (1996). It has been prepared to guide the city in acquiring and developing public outdoor parks and recreation facilities and to enable Burlington to participate in outdoor recreation grant programs through the Department of Natural Resources.

1.1 Executive Summary

This update of the City of Burlington's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan sets forth the city's vision for the future growth and development of its outdoor recreation parks and facilities. This plan is intended to guide the city's outdoor recreation facility development to through the year 2014.

Burlington has enjoyed steady population growth over the past 50 years and is anticipated to add an additional 1,100 residents over the next ten years (Wisconsin DOA). These new populations will enjoy a variety of active and passive use parks with activities ranging from fishing (Echo Park, etc.) to baseball (Hintz Complex, etc.).

The existing city park system is comprised of 26 active and passive use park areas. A majority of these parks are special use parks that provide specific facilities for baseball or other active use pursuits. Other parks, including Bushnell County Park (Racine) which is located in the southeastern corner of the city, provide an array of soccer and football facilities to serve local user groups. There are also seven local school parks owned by the Burlington School District that are heavily utilized by local residents and two state trails (White River State Trail, Burlington-Kansasville State Trail).

During the public input process, several issues repeatedly surfaced from different stakeholder groups. Concerns include the need for additional baseball and soccer facilities to meet increasing demand, additional bicycle trail connections and facilities, and the future of the public pool located in Devor Park. The most common facilities issue in the current park system is the lack or availability of restrooms.

General recommendations for the entire park system include retrofitting all parks and park facilities to be disabled accessible, including shelters and restrooms; improving existing playlots and playgrounds as neighborhood gathering places for all ages; developing a citywide, barrier-free, multi-purpose trail system that connects city parks, county and state parks, existing regional trails, and provides access to natural and cultural resources in the community and region; and, actively pursuing funds for park and recreation programs and park development

1.1.1 Mission Statement

The City of Burlington's Park and Recreation mission is to provide residents within the urban service area a high quality of life. This will be achieved through the effective provision of athletic, recreational, and leisure facilities and programs available for residents of all age groups and levels of ability.

1.1.2 Statement of Need

The City of Burlington Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan has been prepared to identify a strategy to provide residents and visitors an array of recreational opportunity. This plan updates the 1996 Plan which has expired and is no longer useful in preparing budgets, policies and strategies to maximize the enjoyment and economic capability of the parks and recreation system. Burlington desires to leverage the desirable attributes of the park system to enhance the vitality of neighborhood and commercial areas, especially the downtown, by enhancing facilities and connectivity that will make Burlington a destination locale for shopping, dining, and recreation enthusiasts.

1.2 Goals and Objectives

The following section identifies goals and objectives to guide the future development or expansion of community parks and open space facilities.

Goal 1.2.1: Maintain an adequate amount of active and passive recreational lands to meet current and future recreational needs.

Objectives:

- a. Acquire additional lands for active and passive recreational use based on current demand, demands created by increasing populations, and environmental significance of the land.
- b. Acquire 10.5 acres of land suitable for active recreation for every 1,000 new residents.
- c. Acquire lands suitable for park and recreation use by explicitly stating acceptable characteristics of land in the parkland dedication ordinance.
- d. Establish a trail network to link existing and future parkland and surrounding neighborhoods, schools, and state trails (White River State Trail, Burlington/Kansasville State Trail).

Goal 1.2.2: Ensure that open space, recreational facilities and programs are designed to meet the special needs of all residents regardless of age, gender, or ability.

Objectives:

- a. Provide for barrier-free access in all new park facility construction and play areas.
- b. Achieve compliance with accessibility requirements in existing facilities by 2014.
- c. Encourage participation and accommodation of all interested participants at park and recreational meetings and in recreational programs.
- d. Comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act as it applies to communication with the public. This is in reference to the standard language that government agencies should use on their agendas and other public meeting documents stating accommodation of those with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting.

Goal 1.2.3: Coordinate subdivision review with all departments responsible for providing or maintaining adequate park facilities.

Objectives:

- a. Consult and incorporate the needs identified in the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan before subdivision plats are approved.
- b. Evaluate land dedicated for parks to differentiate between land appropriate for active park use, land appropriate for open space only, and land requiring protection from development. Land requiring protection from development should be protected via development codes.
- c. Continually evaluate and update the subdivision ordinance so that it adequately addresses the recreational needs of residents.
- d. Preserve any proposed trail corridors in any review of new development.

Goal 1.2.4: Coordinate development efforts and the use and maintenance of recreational facilities between the City of Burlington, the Burlington Area School District, and appropriate recreation associations.

Objectives:

- a. Coordinate planning efforts of new transportation corridors to ensure proper consideration of trail connection development, and adequate green space protection.
- b. Coordinate the public use of indoor and outdoor school recreation facilities.
- c. Encourage cooperative City/School/Sports Association development projects to help improve and expand recreational opportunities throughout the community in a cost-effective manner.
- d. Develop formal use/revenue/maintenance agreements between the City, school district, and public recreation associations to help operate and maintain public recreation facilities in the City. Agreements should be reviewed every two years.
- e. Participate in regional planning of parks and recreational needs, including Racine County Parks Department, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Goal 1.2.5: Stress the benefits of larger neighborhood and community parks that provide a wide range of facilities over the development of small playground and tot-lot facilities.

Objectives:

- a. Analyze the location, size and function of existing and proposed parks as annexations, residential development, or land use changes occur.
- b. Use Park Service Area Criteria to help determine the location of future park sites (see Chapter 2).

Goal 1.2.6: Provide residents with safe and reliable recreation equipment throughout the city park system.

Objectives:

- a. Accurately inventory existing parks facilities and maintain an active log of facilities improvement.
- b. Continue funding the replacement of old and deteriorating recreation equipment in all city parks.
- c. Continually monitor and maintain existing park equipment to ensure its longevity and safety.

Goal 1.2.7: Use all available resources to further enhance the quality of the City's park system.

Objectives:

- a. Continually pursue state and federal funding programs, which can aid in the purchase and/or development of desired park system improvements.
- b. Nurture the existing positive relationships with public and private organizations for donations and volunteer help to aid in park system development.
- c. Update the city's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan every five years to maintain grant eligibility.
- d. Pursue the development of revenue generating recreational facilities and activities, which can aid in the development of new facilities and/or the maintenance of existing facilities.
- e. Utilize the skills and ideas of Park Board members. This includes keeping a roster of improvement ideas for evaluation and inclusion in CORP updates.

Goal 1.2.8: Improve and expand the bicycle network.

Objectives:

- a. Improve trail connectivity throughout the Burlington area to parks, schools, and regional trails.
- b. Establish wayfinding signage to allow new residents or visitors to effectively travel throughout the city.
- c. Increase the availability of bicycle parking.
- d. Coordinate with streets development to provide on-street linkages (such as bike lanes) between trail segments and park facilities.

Goal 1.2.9: Recognize the importance of an adequate park budget, which can financially address existing park hazards and allow for future parkland acquisition and facility development.

Objectives:

- a. Use the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as a guide to establish yearly park budgets.
- b. Invest funds for the development of facilities that will maximize existing park and recreation areas and provide exciting recreational programs, with the intention of increasing park prominence, community visibility, and use.

Goal 1.2.10: Better integrate programming and facilities development to correspond to recreational pursuits on a seasonal basis.

Objectives:

- a. Create a menu of programs for each season to identify gaps in the calendar where programs are not offered.
- b. Focus on creating additional winter programs, indoor and outdoor, to maximize the recreation opportunity of Burlington as a year-round destination.
- c. Promote seasonal festivals in cooperation with local business and organizations.

1.3 Review of Past Planning Documents (Local, Regional, State)

1.3.1 City of Burlington Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (1996)

The 1996 CORP set forth the City of Burlington's vision for the future growth and development of its outdoor recreation parks and facilities. It was intended to guide the City's outdoor recreation facility development to the year 2010. Recommendations are listed in Chapter 6 for all city public outdoor recreation sites. Priorities included updates and improvements to Echo Veterans' Memorial Park, Festival Park, Beaumont Ball Field, Congress Street Ball Diamond, Riverside Park, Wehmhoff-Jucker/Benson Park, Bear Meadows Park No. 2, and Beverly-Jo Park.

1.3.2 City of Burlington Downtown Master Plan (2000)

This plan was prepared to provide a guideline to assist city stakeholders in identifying and prioritizing redevelopment activities. It was developed in response to riverfront redevelopment along the Fox River and White River in downtown Burlington. The master plan seeks to strengthen the relationship between the river and the downtown and capitalize on economic opportunities that would result from new public and private investments in the riverfront area.

The plan identifies public space development in the downtown including plazas, seating areas, special use areas, sculpture/focal features, information kiosks and pedestrian wayfinding.

Public spaces mentioned in the plan include:

- a. Wehmhoff Town Square
- b. The "Loop"
- c. Chestnut Street Civic Plaza
- d. Mill Street Plaza
- e. Riverfront Plaza
- f. Echo Park

Additional recommendations for park spaces include improvements to Echo Park as a special events site and long-term and special events parking to serve the downtown and riverfront.

1.3.3 City of Burlington Strategic Planning Workshop (2008)

The goals of this workshop were to stimulate discussion of Burlington's present and future, to select areas key to success in achieving an envisioned and desired future, to define and set goals for these key areas, and to identify measurable objectives by which progress toward key strategic goals could be determined.

Park facilities and recreation opportunities were mentioned as primary city responsibilities. The workshop report listed such related goals as considering alternative funding sources such as assessments and impact fees.

1.3.4 A Multijurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035 (2009)

The City of Burlington participated in the development of a multijurisdictional comprehensive plan with Racine County prepared by Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). In addition to the nine elements required by the State of Wisconsin for comprehensive land use plans, the plan contains information related to parks and open spaces. In Burlington, this includes two proposed park sites (shown on Map XIII-6 in the 2035

document). One of the sites is located approximately north of the Burlington Municipal Airport, south of Spring Prairie Road, the other is located approximately south of STH 11, east of Mormon Road. Both potential sites are located outside current city limits. The plan recommends each park is approximately twenty acres in size.

1.3.5 Racine County Outdoor Recreation Plan (2001)

SEWRPC prepared a CORP for Racine County in 2001. Chapter I is an introductory chapter while Chapter II presents information about the County pertinent to park and open space planning, including information on the existing resident population, land use pattern, and natural resource base of the County. Chapter III provides information on existing park sites and facilities and open space lands within the County. Chapter IV presents the park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives, principles, and supporting standards which served as the basis for the development of the park and open space plan for the County, and also presents an analysis of park and open space needs in the County. Chapter V sets forth the recommended park and open space plan and identifies the actions required to carry out the recommended plan. A summary of the plan is presented in Chapter VI.

While the plan references primarily county-owned properties located in unincorporated areas, references to the City of Burlington include improvements to the Racine-Burlington Trail.

1.3.6 A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin (SEWRPC, 2000)

The regional park and open space planning program represents an attempt to apply comprehensive planning principles and practices to recreational and open space problems on an areawide basis. The regional plan is intended to guide the preservation, acquisition, and development of lands not only for outdoor recreation but for the protection of the natural resource base and thereby for the preservation of the overall quality of life within the Region. The plan recommends the general location, size, and type of park and open space sites and facilities required to meet the recreational needs of the resident population of the Region through the turn of the century, as well as to protect the primary environmental corridors and the prime agricultural lands of the Region for all time. The plan contains considerable information that can be used in county and local park and related open space planning and in private recreational development planning and is intended to promote coordination of public and private outdoor recreation facility development so that efforts in the two sectors complement rather than duplicate one another.

The plan mentions the City of Burlington in three locations. First, park planning standards identify 10 acres of recreational area per 1,000 population for Burlington. Second, parkland dedication requirements are listed. Third, the plan recommends the DNR acquire the segment of environmental corridor along the main stem of the Fox River in Kenosha and Racine counties south of the City.

1.3.7 Wisconsin State Trails Network Plan – Southeast Region (2001)

Segment 39-Burlington to La Grange: This trail starts in Burlington and runs west along a proposed 14.5-mile Sugar Creek Trail to Abel's Corners in Walworth County. The route continues north on roadways five miles to link with the Mukwonago River Trail east of La Grange. North of this segment an on-road segment would provide access to the Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit and the Ice Age Bike Route.

1.3.8 Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment of 3 Railway Purchases (WisDOT, 1999)

The Burlington-Elkhorn Trail (White River Trail) is located on the western edge of Racine County and extends into Walworth County. The corridor is 12.6 miles in length and contains 152.73 acres. It is part of a larger 45-mile corridor located between the City of Racine in Racine County and the Village of Darien in Walworth County, identified in the state trails plan as a later target of acquisition. The City of Burlington is the eastern trailhead and the City of Elkhorn is the western terminus of the portion of the rail corridor being acquired. The trail passes through the Town of Lyons, five miles west of Burlington. *(Editorial Note: Significant portions of this trail have been constructed though a significant gap still remains between Schamling Park and Spring Valley Road west of Burlington.)*

1.3.9 Wisconsin's State Outdoor Recreation Plan

Since 1965, the State has developed and maintained the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) in an attempt to classify, measure, and ultimately provide for the preferences and needs of a statewide recreating public. Goals include the following:

1. Protect, restore and enhance Wisconsin's natural resources for outdoor recreation.
2. Continue to improve and develop Wisconsin outdoor recreation facilities.
3. Understand the threats and opportunities of Wisconsin's developing urban areas and areas of rapid population growth.
4. Promote Wisconsin outdoor recreation as a means to better health and wellness for state citizens.

The 2005-2010 SCORP examines and assesses current and future recreational needs within the state. To aid in this process, Wisconsin was divided into a group of eight planning regions, each representing a loose collection of natural resource and tourism based assets. Burlington is in the "Lower Lake Michigan Coastal" region where the provision of urban recreation facilities such as dog parks, city trails, and basketball courts are primary.

1.4 Summary of the Planning Process

1.4.1 Work Plan and Timeline

This plan was developed between March and June 2010. The process included two meetings with staff and other officials, a one-day stakeholder interview, and a public information meeting. All parks were audited by SAA staff with findings identified on inventory sheets. An online survey was also performed to elicit public information from individuals and groups unable to attend the public meetings.

1.4.2 Meetings

Meeting #1 March 18, 2010: the kick-off meeting was at City Hall. The scope and timeline of the project was reviewed and dates for the remainder of the meetings were set. A hopes and concerns discussion revealed top priority needs including shoreline restoration efforts in several parks, bicycle trail connections, and establishing an accurate inventory of existing facilities.

The City shares several recreational facilities with the school district; there is not a formal agreement between the two entities for programming and maintenance. Stakeholders were

identified for the public input process and a project was identified for the 2010 DNR Stewardship Grant application.

Meeting #2 April 28th, 2010: this was a public information meeting held to report on the status of the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, discuss its purpose, and obtain feedback before recommendations were developed. The event was held in the Patriot Room at Veterans Terrace at Echo Park and was attended by approximately 15 people. A proceedings memo is available in Appendix A.

1.4.3 Stakeholder Interviews

On April 28, 2010, SAA conducted eight interviews with city-selected stakeholders identified as having interest, expertise, or insight into parks and open space issues within the planning area. There were no members of the Parks and Recreation Committee interviewed. The following groups participated in the interview process:

- 1) Baseball 2000
- 2) Burlington Youth Soccer Club
- 3) Burlington Little League
- 4) Burlington Youth Football
- 5) Bicycling Club (Bob's Pedal Pushers)
- 6) Burlington Girl's Softball
- 7) Cooper School PTO
- 8) Burlington Senior Center

The purpose of the interviews was to collect primary-level data regarding the current and future conditions of parks for all users within the planning area. A special emphasis was placed on collecting information about the perceived adequacy of existing facilities and any related improvements to mitigate concerns.

Each interview lasted about one-half hour although variation occurred due to arrival times and the willingness of interviewees to provide detailed explanations to their responses. Combinations of questions were posed from scaled-response to open ended interrogatives. Not all questions were equally applicable to every interviewee, in fact, given our charge of determining possible improvements for city parks, we quickly found out that many user groups use school district or county parks most frequently. In all cases we recorded information about assets and opportunities for the park they used most often. The results of this exercise would be most effectively utilized if shared with other implementation authorities including the school district and county parks. Complete results are available in Appendix A.

1.4.4 Online Survey

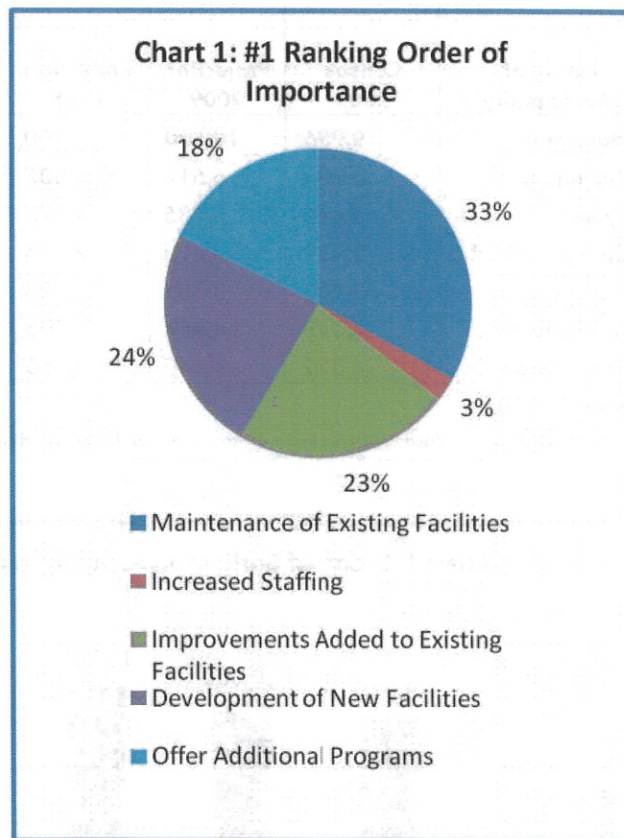
An online survey was developed to record public opinion concerning key issues and opportunities for enhanced use and enjoyment of the Burlington recreation system. The survey was also used to formulate recommendations in Chapter 3.

A web link to the survey was placed on the home page of the City of Burlington website, the link was also distributed via email and shown during public meetings. The survey was activated in early April 2010 and closed at the end of May 2010. There were 124 responses collected. Summary responses for the entire survey are available for review in Appendix A. General findings are summarized below.

The highest percentage of response for the overall condition of each type of recreation facility offered in Burlington was a rating of “good”. Facilities that were lacking, or “need improvement” include basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts, and winter sports. When asked if there were enough of these facilities, basketball courts, camping, multiuse fields, swimming, trails, volleyball courts, and winter sports were all regarded as insufficient. When asked about age groups, the only group that was not being served was “adolescents 13-18 years”.

Support components are accessory structures and facilities necessary for park use. These include restrooms, parking lots, handicap accessibility, shelters, and public transportation. When asked if any of these facilities were inadequate in Burlington “public restrooms” received the highest percentage of response (66%). “Public transportation” (46%) and “parking” (49%) showed the next highest percentage.

Respondents were also asked to consider the needs of the area for additional outdoor recreation facilities, resources, and programs, and to rate the selections in order of importance. Chart 1 shows the #1 Ranking in Order of Importance. The mostly highly ranked #1 priority was “maintenance of existing facilities” (33%) followed by “development of new facilities” (24%) and “improvements added to existing facilities” (23%).



1.5 City of Burlington Demographics

1.5.1 Social Characteristics

This section presents social factors that are important to understanding the Burlington community and its recreation needs and potential. Particularly important to planning for the adequate provision of parks and open spaces are population trends and projections over the planning period (5-10 years) and age characteristics of potential park users.

Population Trends and Projections

There is a direct relationship between population and the need for parks and recreational space. Predicting how the population might grow in the future provides important information about the amount of new parkland and recreational facilities that will be needed to serve the new populations.

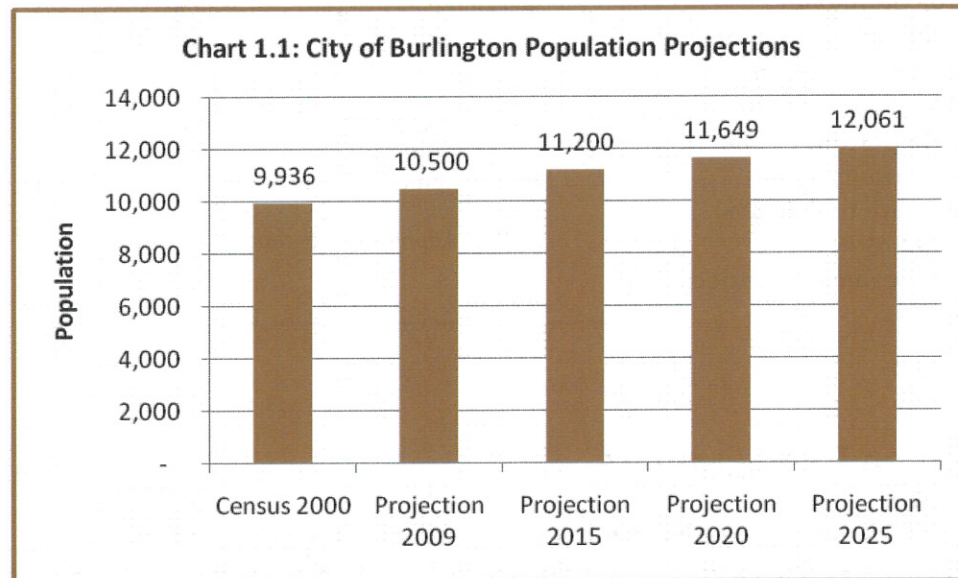
The greatest population change over the past 50 years in the City of Burlington was between 1960-1970 when the population increased 27.7% (5,856 to 7,479). The period from 1970-1980 was 12.1% and from 1980-1990 there was a 5.6% increase. Table 1 shows population projections for Burlington and adjacent or neighboring communities through year 2025. These estimates indicate that there can be expected a 15% increase in population over the next 15 years. This amounts to approximately 1,560 people.

Table 1.1: Population Projections for City of Burlington and Comparables (2025)

Name of Municipality	Census 2000	Projection 2009	Projection 2015	Projection 2020	Projection 2025	Percentage Change 2009-2025
C Burlington	9,936	10,500	11,200	11,649	12,061	15%
T Burlington	6,384	6,514	6,807	6,919	7,011	8%
T Lyons*	3,440	3,735	4,277	4,564	4,829	29%
T Spring Prairie*	2,089	2,213	2,374	2,478	2,568	16%
V Rochester	3,403	3,731	4,194	4,456	4,705	26%
V Waterford	4,048	4,854	5,703	6,255	6,786	40%
V Union Grove	4,322	4,549	4,956	5,173	5,374	18%

* Walworth County

Source: Applied use of Wisconsin Department of Administration Estimates (various)



Ethnic Background

In 2000, the Census indicated the largest percentage of Burlington residents (96%) were white. The second highest percentage were "some other race" with (2%) followed by "Asian" and "Black or African American" (both with <1%).

Employment/Unemployment

In 2000, the Census indicated Burlington had only 4% unemployment. This compares slightly higher than the state figure which indicated 3.2% unemployment this same year. However, recent statewide trends suggest unemployment in the city is likely to be much higher in 2010 with the state reporting an 8.7% unemployment rate as of March 2010.

In 2000, approximately 27% of the population over the age of 16 was not in the labor force. This includes retired persons and those that choose not to work.

Age

Age distribution in the City of Burlington is shown in Table 1.2. Age cohorts are an important consideration when determining park facilities because certain age groups are more likely to utilize certain recreation facilities depending upon their stage in life. For example, in 2000 there were an estimated 702 (7.1%) of children under the age of 5. These children would best be served by low platforms with ramps or ladders, sand areas, or short slides no taller than 4 feet. These same facilities would be uninteresting to a 10 year old. A well-rounded park system will provide a variety of facilities (soccer fields, etc.) and equipment (swings, etc.) for all potential users regardless of ability or stage of life.

Changes in age distribution between 1990 and 2000 seem to suggest there is a growing need for playground equipment and facilities (0-19 years) and for more adult-oriented activity centers. Following national trends, the city is likely to experience an increase of senior residents seeking recreation opportunities. These populations are generally seeking walking paths (with benches) and formalize senior programming as well as fishing and other outdoor options.

Table 1.2: Age Distribution, 1990-2000

	1990		2000		Percent Change 1990-2000
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 5 years	703	7.9	702	7.1	0%
5 to 9 years	714	8	779	7.8	8%
10 to 14 years	644	7.2	777	7.8	17%
15 to 19 years	590	6.6	749	7.5	21%
20 to 24 years	600	6.7	647	6.5	7%
25 to 34 years	1529	17.2	1,348	13.6	-13%
35 to 44 years	1226	13.8	1,581	15.9	22%
45 to 54 years	881	9.9	1,197	12	26%
55 to 59 years	348	3.9	432	4.3	19%
60 to 64 years	369	4.1	340	3.4	-9%
65 to 74 years	637	7.1	639	6.4	0%
75 to 84 years	446	5	539	5.4	17%
85 years and over	164	1.8	206	2.1	20%
Total Population	8,851		9,936		

1990,2000 Census, SF-1

1.5.2 Physical Characteristics

This section presents physical factors in the community and region that are important to understanding Burlington's recreation potential.

Topography¹

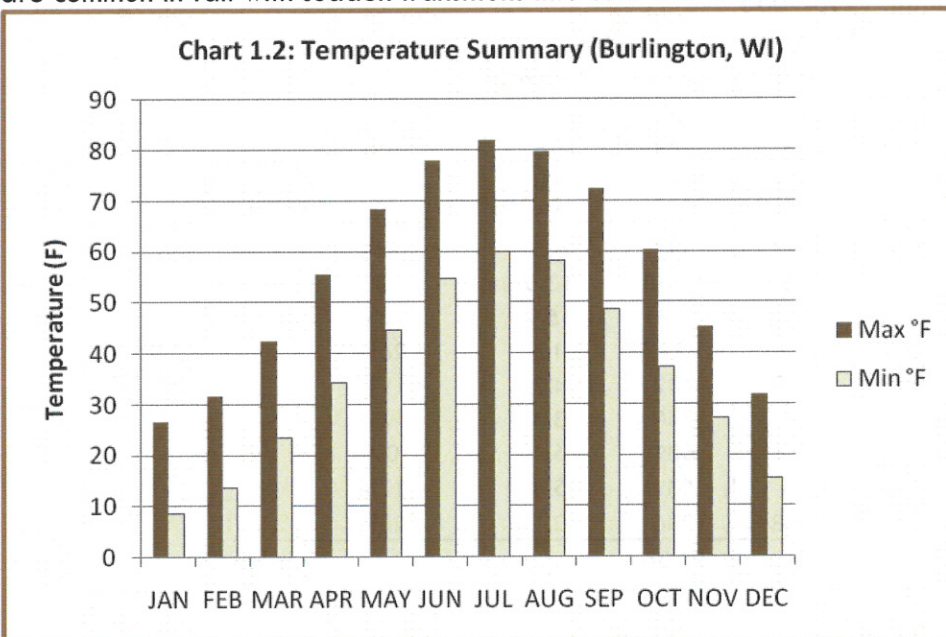
Racine County varies from gently rolling glacial plains, or ground moraines, in the eastern half to steeper hills in the western half. Ground moraines are typically comprised of dense basal till, which frequently contains a combination of silt and clay. The eastern edge of Racine County also contains the lake terrace, which runs parallel to and contiguous with the shoreline of Lake Michigan. In the western area of Racine County, the western side of the Fox River is comprised of sand and gravel outwash deposits. Glacial outwash deposits are common along the major rivers and streams of Racine County. Outwash is alluvial in origin and was deposited by glacial meltwaters. A few places in the County also contain lacustrine deposits, which include the sediments of glacial lakebeds.

Water Resources²

The City of Burlington is located in the Fox River Watershed. Approximately 151 acres (3.3%) of the city contain surface waters. Significant local water bodies include the Fox River, which bisects the city, Echo Lake, the White River, and Honey Creek. Rock Island Lake and Browns Lake are located immediately to the east.

Climate

Climate is an important consideration for determining the range of recreational activities that should be provided. The Burlington area has a continental climate characterized by significant changes in weather. The cold, snowy winters favor a variety of winter sports. Lakes and rivers usually begin to freeze over in December and remain ice covered until March. Early spring brings a variety of temperatures and a mix of precipitation. By the end of March, nearly all precipitation is in the form of rain. Summers are characterized by warm days and potentially cool nights with occasional hot and humid weather. Drought conditions may occur. Fall temperatures are generally mild during the day with cool clear nights. Temperature extremes are common in fall with sudden transitions into cold winter weather.



¹ A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035 (2009)

² A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035 (2009)

2 ANALYSIS OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

This chapter analyzes the park and open space system in and around the City of Burlington. It inventories and classifies the park system based on national standards established by the National Recreation and Park Association. In addition, this chapter documents the nearby county and state outdoor recreation supply available to Burlington residents.

2.1 City of Burlington Parks, Open Spaces, and School Facilities

The information for this section was gathered from site visits conducted by SAA staff, discussion with City staff, and review of the 2005 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (Meehan). A Facility Matrix for the entire Burlington park system is located in Appendix B. See Appendix C for a map of park locations.

2.1.1 Mini Parks

Mini parks include specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. Desirable size is 1 acre or less.

Benson Park

This 0.55 acre park is located at the terminus of Wisconsin Street on the banks of the Fox River. This park sits adjacent to the larger Wehmhoff Jucker Park and could be visually mistaken for an extension of this parcel. There are no amenities in this park and it is comprised of general open space and large mature trees.

Beverly-Jo Park

This 1.63 acre park is located at the terminus of Dunford Drive on the City's south end. This parcel is a mix of general open space and mature hickory and oak trees with an old chainlink backstop in the southwest corner. Steep slopes offer winter sledding opportunities and existing primitive trails offer fair weather walking. Views to the west overlook the industrial park. The City owns a parcel to the north and east containing a water tower and heavily wooded area. Some of this lot is lighted.

Meinhardt Park

This 0.34 acre park is located on Spring Street on the banks of the Fox River. General open space on the river offers views of the riverwalk and downtown. There are a few parking stalls to the west of the park and two benches.

Steinhoff Park

This 1.69 acre park is located on Cedar Drive in the City's north neighborhood. Situated in a natural bowl, the setting is quite attractive and well landscaped. A play structure and swings occupy one corner with general open space, a sledding hill, and sand volley ball court spaced throughout the park. The west side of the park is bordered by a corridor ideal for a multi-use path connecting to Grove Street to the south.

Wagner Park

This 1.59 acre park is located between the banks of the White River and STH 11 on the north end of the City. It is predominantly general open space with mature trees throughout the linear park. Concrete block banks protect the turf areas from high river water levels.

Wehmhoff Park

This 0.87 acre park is located on the corner of Washington Street and Pine Street. The "Town Square" is well landscaped and is frequently used for lunchtime escapes, public gatherings, and educational opportunities. A pioneer cabin, garden, paver walkways, extensive seating options and an open air pavilion offer users various interests. A kiosk for public notices and one bicycle rack also exist on the Pine Street side.

West Edge Park

This 1.69 acre park is located south of Dyer Middle School and is accessible from Hillside Drive. The park contains general open space and is visually indecipherable from the softball fields on the school property. Four ballfields with backstops, team benches, and excellent infields are available for informal games. The backstop fencing is in excellent condition.

2.1.2 Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are areas for intense recreation activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus, skating, picnicking, wading pools and the like. Desirable size is 15+ acres.

Riverfront Park

This 1.6 acre park is located between Bridge Street and the Fox River. Heavily used by pedestrians and cyclists, this linear park connects the downtown, Riverside Park, St. Mary's Park, and the County owned Benson Park via the County bicycle trail. The park contains various public amenities in addition to the lighted formal riverwalk.

Riverside Park

This 4.35 acre park is located on Congress Street on the north bank of the Fox River just east of the confluence with the White river. A bridge connects the park to Wehmhoff Jucker Park on the south banks of the river. Amenities include an open air shelter with picnic tables, two play structures, two swing sets, adequate parking, sand volleyball, and general open space. This park is often used for a kayak and canoe launch, but also suffers from severe flooding damage in periods of sustained high water.

St. Mary's Park

This park is located on Calumet Street and is adjacent to the Fox River. The park is split in half by a parcel used for dumping and storage of City materials. Due to the frequent flooding of the park, recreational use is somewhat limited. The south end contains a large fenced dog park

and portable restrooms. A bridge connects this park to the County owned Benson Park on the east side of the river. Amenities include a canoe launch, benches, and picnic tables. The Citywide bike trail runs through this park and connects to the riverwalk and the county bike trail.

Wehmhoff Jucker Park

This park is located at the confluence of the White and Fox rivers and contains approximately 3.28 acres. Large mature trees provide shade for users of this park which is connected to Riverside Park via a bridge providing access to the County bike trail system. The park is heavily used due to the proximity to downtown and the excellent trail connections. The pavilion is fully ADA accessible, but the parking lot is located on the opposite end of the park with no provisions for pedestrian movement between the facilities.

2.1.3 Community Parks

Community parks are areas of diverse environmental quality and may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. Desirable size is 25+ acres.

Devor Park

This park is located on Amanda Street and contains approximately 4.63 acres. Amenities include the community swimming pool, play structure, tennis courts, general open space, sledding hill, and pavilion. The parking allocation may be substandard for a park of this size with these types of amenities.

Echo Park

This park is located between the banks of Echo Lake and STH 36, and contains approximately 10.48 acres. This is one of the most heavily used City parks and offers a variety of amenities. The park is easily accessible by automobile, pedestrians, and bicycles. The park contains a continuous path system connecting many of the uses including the playground, lakefront, shelters, and veterans memorial. The dam and spillway on the White River offer a major attraction for fisherman.

Festival Grounds

This “park” is located on Maryland Avenue and is used primarily for Chocolate Fest once a year. The grounds consist of a mix of gravel parking areas and concrete pads. A large grandstand offers spectators better viewing during festival events. This lot is also used for overflow parking during baseball games held at Beaumont Field.

McCanna Park 1

This park is located on McCanna Parkway at the corner of State Street, and contains approximately 33.30 acres. Rockland Lake lies to the east of the park and the site is predominantly covered in wetlands. A parking lot serves the improved park area which includes a shelter, restrooms, and playground area. The bike trail is located across the street and should be connected to the park. A second portion of the park lies west of McCanna Parkway and is 100% general open space. This area is most likely used by residents of the adjacent apartment complex.

2.1.4 Special Use Parks

Special use parks are areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, skate parks, and ball diamonds.

Beaumont Field/Congress Field

This 7.42 acre park is located between Congress Street and Milwaukee Avenue (STH 36/83). Two distinct facilities are housed on this parcel serving the Burlington Baseball 2000 group and the Burlington girls softball group. Beaumont field is the city's premier facility and is operated and maintained entirely by a private organization. Congress field has some older amenities and is prone to flooding during high stormwater events from the Fox River.

Grove Street Park

This 0.31 acre park is located between Grove Street and the banks of Echo Lake. This linear space is heavily wooded and offers no formal amenities. There is potential for this parcel to provide a link from the proposed trail system beginning in Steinhoff Park to Echo Park.

Hintz Complex

This 6.71 acre park is located on the east side of Maryland Avenue. This facility serves the city-wide little league and offers three fields. There is also an indoor batting practice facility onsite.

Nestles Park

This 2.44 acre linear park is situated between STH 83 and the Wisconsin Central Railroad line across from the Nestle manufacturing plant. This space is not accessible by pedestrians and is comprised of general open space and various tree plantings. It serves as a visual buffer from the railroad line.

Skateboard Park

This 0.84 acre parcel is located on Maryland Avenue adjacent to the festival grounds. This site was developed by volunteer efforts and a youth skateboarding organization but is no longer used for skateboarding. The site is not currently utilized and all equipment has been removed.

Sunset Park

This 1.91 acre park is located on Sunset Drive at the corner of Sheldon Street. The majority of the parcel is a high quality little league baseball field with lights, dugouts, pressbox, restrooms, and concessions. The site also includes two tennis courts in very poor condition, and a gravel parking area.

Water Tower Park

This 0.06 acre park is located on the top of a hill at Lewis Street and James Street. Amenities on the site are limited to a historic water tower structure and various tree plantings. There is no parking and pedestrian access is very limited. Steep slopes and a large concrete retaining wall are prominent features of this special use park. It is possible that the historic building may have some limited reuse in the future.

2.1.5 Conservancy Parks

Conservancy parks are established for protection and management of the natural or cultural environment with recreational facilities as a secondary objective.

Bear Meadows Park 1

This natural area is located at the end of Monica Avenue and contains approximately 4.24 acres. The site is heavily wooded and has steep slopes creating a large depression. The site has very little recreation value other than for protection of its natural resources.

Bear Meadows Park 2

This park is located on Cooper Hawk Drive and contains approximately 1.66 acres. The site is heavily wooded and contains an ATC power line. The site has very steep slopes and provides little recreation value other than the protection of natural resources.

McCanna Park 2

This park is located on STH 11 directly across from McCanna Parkway and McCanna Park 1. The approximately 1.20 acre parcel is adjacent to a large wetland and contains predominantly general open space. The bicycle trail runs through this site, but it has no other improvements.

McCanna Wetland Preserve

This park is located on Browns Lake Drive and contains approximately 7.37 acres. The site is predominantly wetland or shallow pond area. There is little recreation value other than the protection of natural resources. An ATC power line runs through the site connecting to the north and south.

2.1.6 School Parks

The information for this section was first used in a 2005 parks inventory conducted by Meehan & Company and verified with assistance from the City and SAA staff.

Catholic Central High School Practice Field

Classified as a "Community Playfield", the Catholic Central High School Practice Field is largely an open grass area.

Facilities at Catholic Central High School Practice Field Include:

- Baseball field with (cyclone fence) backstop
- Football practice field
- Sandlot baseball field with backstop

Cooper Elementary School

This is a "Neighborhood Playground" area.

Facilities include:

- Blacktop play area with associated game markings
- Eight (8) place swing set
- Two (2) modular sets
- Three (3) picnic tables
- Parallel bars

Burlington High School

This school was built in 2000, on an approximate 56 acres site. It lies adjacent to Gateway Technical College and the Aurora Wellness Center. Originally, tennis courts and a football field with a surrounding track were built. In 2004, construction began on lights, bleachers, restroom/concession stand, baseball, softball and associated open space practice fields.

Facilities include:

- Eight (8) tennis courts
- Lighted football field with bleachers seating for 3000
- Running track with associated field event areas
- Baseball field – lighted
- Two (2) softball fields
- Concession/restroom building
- Paved parking lot

Dr. Edward Dyer School

This “Neighborhood Playground” area is essentially an open grass play area. The playground is contiguous to the undeveloped West Edge Park.

Facilities at the Burlington Dyer School include:

- Four (4) sandlot ball (cyclone fence) backstops which are utilized by girl’s softball as well as various youth baseball programs for practice fields
- School parking lot, paved with associated game markings
- Three (3) trash barrels
- Five (5) picnic tables
- Six (6) bike racks
- Three (3) basketball standards with backboards
- Play structure with various climbing apparatus

Karcher Middle School

Classified as a “Community Playfield”, Karcher Middle School facilities are utilized heavily by the school district. Public use of the facilities is restricted to non-school hours. The focal point of the Karcher Middle School area is the football field and associated running track area. The City provided the playground structure that currently exists on school grounds.

Facilities at Karcher Middle School include:

- Lighted football field (eight poles-ninety-six lights)
- Electric scoreboard
- Score box area with new press box
- Concrete section of bleachers
- Two (2) combination metal/wood bleacher sections
- Paved running track area surrounding the football field
- Open practice area
- Sandlot baseball backstop
- Three (3) equipment storage buildings

- Four (4) lighted tennis courts (four light poles)
- Cyclone fencing surrounding the tennis courts
- Two (2) basketball standards
- Playground structure

St. Charles Grade School

This recreational area is classified as a “Neighborhood Playground” with minimal facilities available.

Facilities at St. Charles Grade School include:

- Blacktop (asphalt) play area that also serves as a parking lot
- Three (3) basketball standards with backboards

St. John’s Lutheran School

This “Neighborhood Playground” has the benefit of a variety of newer playground apparatus and it is well organized.

Facilities at St. John’s Lutheran School include:

- Four (4) place swing set
- Merry-go-round
- Slide
- Three (3) monkey bar climbing apparatus
- Two (2) teeter-totters
- Three (3) tire climbing apparatus
- Fun barrel ball game
- Small blacktop play area with associated game markings
- Open grass play area with two (2) soccer goals
- Tot lot structure
- Three (3) basketball standards with backboards

St. Mary’s Grade/High School

Classified as a “Neighborhood Playground”, the site can be broken into two distinct recreational areas.

Facilities included at the grade school portion of St. Mary’s Grade/High School are:

- Large blacktop play area with associated markings for various games
- Three (3) basketball standards
- Three (3) modular play sets – one (1) wooden

The second distinct area associated with this recreational facility is the high school football field which includes the following facilities:

- Lighted football field (eight light posts – fifty-six lights)
- Two (2) bleacher sections
- Electric scoreboard
- Scorer box

- Concession stand
- Playground structure

Waller Elementary School

This particular “Neighborhood Playground site is one of the most fully developed of the areas classified as “Neighborhood Playgrounds” in the City of Burlington.

Facilities at Waller Elementary School include:

- Three (3) ball fields which are utilized by the City of Burlington Little League and Minor League programs
- Each ball field has a cyclone fence backstop and dugout benches
- Blacktop play area which includes:
 - Four (4) Half-court basketball courts
 - Modular play equipment
 - Safety village course
 - Five (5) bicycle racks
 - Brick storage shed

2.1.7 Linear Parks (Trail Corridors)

A linear park is an area developed for one or more modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, etc. County and state trails are discussed in Section 2.4.

Burlington Riverwalk

The Burlington Riverwalk is the main trail corridor owned and maintained by the City. This trail system connects several parks including Riverside Park, Wehmhoff Jucker Park, Echo Park, Benson Park (Racine County), and the Burlington High School.

Beloit Pedestrian Way

This undeveloped corridor is a heavily wooded right-of-way on the north side of the Burlington Industrial park. If developed, the City could connect Westedge Park and the residential area south of Hillside Drive to Sunset Park and the pedestrian system on Beloit Street.

2.1.8 Private Parks

Catholic Cemetery

This field is used by the Catholic high school for sporting events and is not regularly available for public city use.

Lavelle Industries

As of 2010, this facility was in the process of being dismantled and abandoned. The Burlington Little League has possession of the existing backstop and plans to utilize this amenity in a new location.

2.2 Inventory of Nearby County and State Facilities

2.2.1 Racine County Parks

Bushnell County Park

Spanning 95 acres, Bushnell is a very active park with baseball and soccer fields, horseshoe courts and playground equipment. There is park land along the Fox river with a trail system and fishing nodes. Many local families take advantage of the large shelter, with picnic tables, grills and electric, for summer picnics. The City of Burlington schedules all the sporting activities and prepares fields for use, and the County maintains the open areas. The latest development includes a new bridge built across the Fox River allowing the bike trail to run through the park.

Racine County Bicycle Trail (Burlington Leg)

This is a four mile stretch of the extensive Racine County trail system. The trail begins near Riverside Park and travels northeast along the banks of the Fox River to Waterford.

2.2.2 State Parks

Burlington-Kansasville Bicycle Trail

This is an eight mile trail section that is operated by Racine County. The trail is crushed limestone and begins on the east edge of Burlington adjacent to the high school and extends to Kansasville.

White River State Trail

Ten miles of this new county-operated state trail between Elkhorn and the Walworth County line just west of Burlington are open to hiking, biking, and snowmobiling. A 2-mile stretch is open to horseback riding. The trail goes past farmlands, through the historic village of Lyons, and within 5 miles of Lake Geneva and Big Foot Beach State Park. Bicyclists and horseback riders age 16 and older must have a state trail pass.

2.3 Parkland Classification Analysis

The number and type of parks and recreation facilities needed within a community are dependent on the demands of the local residents. Identifying the recreational needs and wants of community residents provides the justification for funding the acquisition and development of new facilities as well as for the maintenance of existing recreational facilities.

2.3.1 Parkland Classification

A parkland classification system is a useful tool to determine if an existing park system serves the needs of a community. The definitions in this document are adapted from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) classification system. Total acreage alone does not guarantee that the community's park needs are being met. A community should have a number of different types of parks to serve the various needs of the residents. They may have "met the standard" in acreage through the creation of one large park, but the community's needs can best be met through a variety of recreational activity. Table 2-1 explains the seven park classifications, their associated use, service areas, desirable size and desired acres per 1,000 population. A well-rounded park system offers at least one park in each classification.

Table 2-1 National Recreation and Park Association Parkland Classification System

Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1,000 Population
A. Local/Close-to-Home Space				
Mini-Park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Less than ¼ mile radius	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5A
Neighborhood Park/Playground	Areas for intense recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	¼ to ½ mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood)	15+ acres	1.0 to 2.0A
Community Park	Areas of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.	Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2 mile radius	25+ acres	5.0 to 8.0A
Total Local Space = 6.25 to 10.5 AC/1,000				
B. Regional Space				
Regional/ Metropolitan Park	Areas of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses; may include play areas.	Several communities. 1 hour driving time	200+ acres	5.0 to 10.0A
C. Space that may be Local or Regional and is Unique to Each Community				
Linear Park	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. May include active play areas. (NOTE: the above components may occur in the "linear park")	No applicable standard	Sufficient width to protect the resource and provide maximum use	Variable

Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1,000 Population
Special Use	Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, skateparks, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, or downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret buildings, sites, and objects of archeological significance. Also plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, parkways.	No applicable standard	Variable	Variable
Conservancy	Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreational use as a secondary objective.	No applicable standard	Sufficient to protect the resource	Variable

2.3.2 Level of Service Standards

Once a community's existing parks have been classified, a comparison can be made between the national standard for each park type and existing park acreage. While there is no formally established formula to determine the Level of Service (LOS) provided by the existing facilities, the following parameters should be considered.

Indicators	Social Environmental Economic
Acreage/Miles	Population standards (Acres/1000 population) Benchmarking
Facilities, Activities, Capacity	Population standards Demographic Analysis Neighborhood area activities Supply/Demand
Access	Walking/Bicycling/Driving, Transit Parks Facilities
Quality	Evaluation Mapping/Distribution
Programs	Relevancy, quality, and variety Scheduling Mapping/Distribution

For this plan, the acreage standard for local park space is most relevant. The standard of 10.5-acres/1,000 population (Table 2-1) is used as a basis for determining recommended acreage needs. This acreage should be distributed among park types as follows:

Table 2-2 Recommended Park Standards

Mini Parks	0.5 acres/1,000 population
Neighborhood Parks	2.0 acres/1,000 population
Community Parks	8.0 acres/1,000 population
Total	10.5 acres/1,000 population

Actual acreage totals compared to national standards are identified in Chart 2-1. As shown, current acreage totals surpass minimum national standards, but do not meet recommended totals for community parks (53 actual acres compared to a recommended standard of 84 acres). However, as shown in Chart 2-2, if you add in the acres for Bushnell County Park which provides accommodations for many of the city's active use needs, the city meets or surpasses the national standard in each active use park classification for the current population (10,485 in 2008).

Chart 2-3 uses the 2035 projection (SEWRPC) of 13,931 residents and applies it to current acreage figures. Assuming two additional community parks are built (each about 20 acres in size), Burlington will not meet the recommended standard for community parks. It is likely an additional 20-acre site would need to be identified to serve new populations.

Chart 2-1: City Park Acreage Compared to Recommended and Minimum National Standard

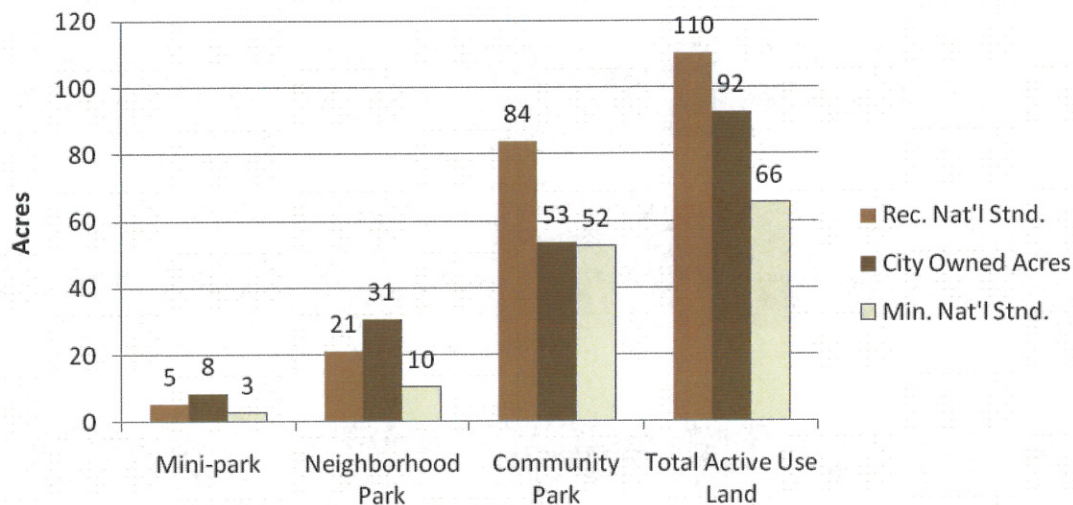


Chart 2-2: City Plus Bushnell Acreage Compared to the National Standard

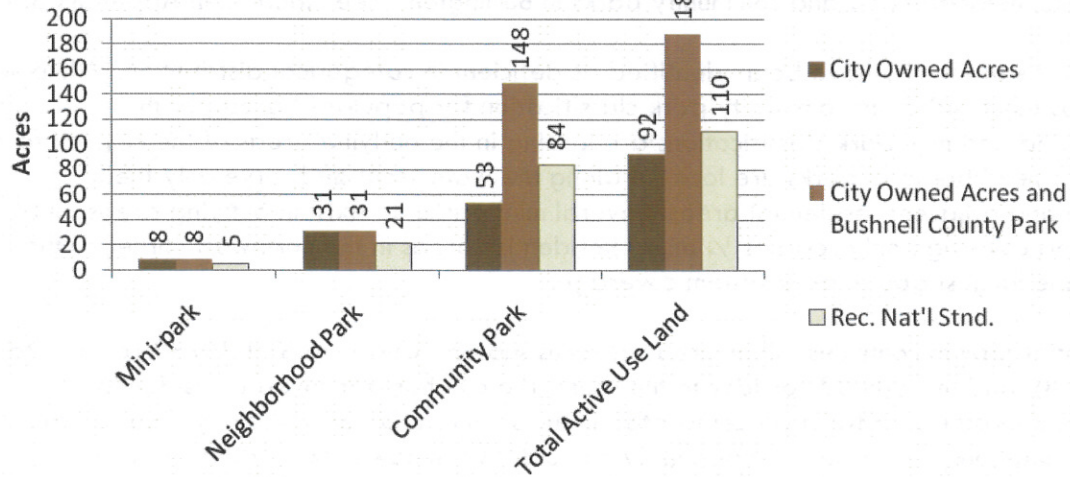
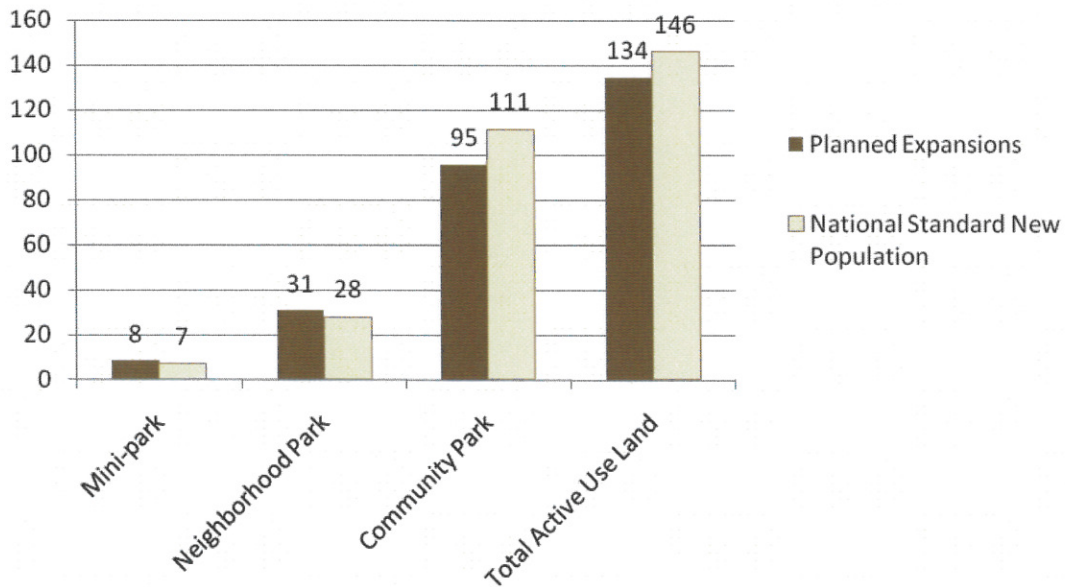


Figure 2-3: City Owned Acres Compared to 2035 Population Projection



2.4 Park Service Area Requirements

This method of evaluating a community's parkland needs and adequacy of service includes plotting park service areas on a base map to identify areas that are underserved. Utilizing the park service radii criteria established by the NRPA, park service areas were mapped for existing mini, neighborhood and community parks in Burlington. See Figure C in Appendix B.

Several areas of the city have been identified as deficient in categorical distribution. While no major gaps exist under the community park classification for populated areas, both neighborhood and mini park classifications are lacking in the outlying areas of the city. All four of the city's neighborhood parks are located along the waterfront and serve only the downtown and adjacent residential areas. Several mini parks do exist in outlying areas, but service area coverage only reaches $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Residential areas in the northwest corner of the city have the largest gap in park system coverage.

As residential growth continues, other areas of focus should include the STH 36/83 corridor to the northeast, and the STH 83 corridor to the south. The city has approved a residential development master plan for a parcel located in the southern corner of the city. Due to current economic conditions, the project is indefinitely on hold. When new housing development resumes, the city should plan for a recreation facility to serve new populations.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations chapter of a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan provides actions to guide the future development or expansion of community parks and open spaces. General citywide recommendations provide direction on policy and design considerations while also considering operational and maintenance procedures. This chapter also includes a detailed park facilities sheet for each park in the Burlington system with general issues, improvements, and costs, were applicable.

3.1 General Recommendations

The following is a list of general recommendations for the entire City of Burlington parks system. Some recommendations should be implemented as necessary when capital improvements and upgrades are considered on an annual basis. Others, such as long-term parkland acquisition statements should be evaluated in coordination with new residential developments.

3.1.1 General Recommendations for the Entire Park System

- a. Retrofit all parks and park facilities to be disabled accessible, including shelters and restrooms. As park toilet buildings are built or upgraded, they should be designed to be barrier-free and accessible to all park users.
- b. Cover surfaces directly under play equipment and a safe zone around the play equipment with a 10-inch to 12-inch layer of resilient safety surface. Commonly used resilient surfaces are sand, pea gravel, recycled rubber or wood chips. To meet the Federal ADA requirements, the City of Burlington should consider using "Wood Carpet" or a similar product that provides wheelchair accessibility as well as a resilient surface.
- c. Conduct a safety audit/inspection of all existing play structures for current National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI) conformance. Audits should be performed by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI).
- d. Acquire additional parklands as appropriate to meet current and future recreational needs per the recommendations of the City's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- e. Improve existing playlots and playgrounds as neighborhood gathering places for all ages, and incorporate new neighborhood-focused facilities consistent with the patterns of new residential growth in the City.

- f. Develop a City-wide, barrier-free, multi-purpose trail system that connects city parks, county and state parks, existing regional trails, and provides access to natural and cultural resources in the community and region. Cooperate with various transportation agencies to provide safe crossings at major street and highway intersections.
- g. Actively generate funds for park and recreation programs and park development. The city should also pursue grant opportunities to supplement capitol funds for future development and park system upgrades.
- h. Perform systematic routine maintenance of park facilities and equipment including:
 - Play equipment
 - Courts and fields
 - Benches and picnic tables
 - Trail systems
 - Restrooms and shelters

3.2 Future Parks and Open Spaces

The following section discusses future park and open space locations based on existing documents and the public information process. Tools for acquiring and funding parklands are discussed in Chapter 4.

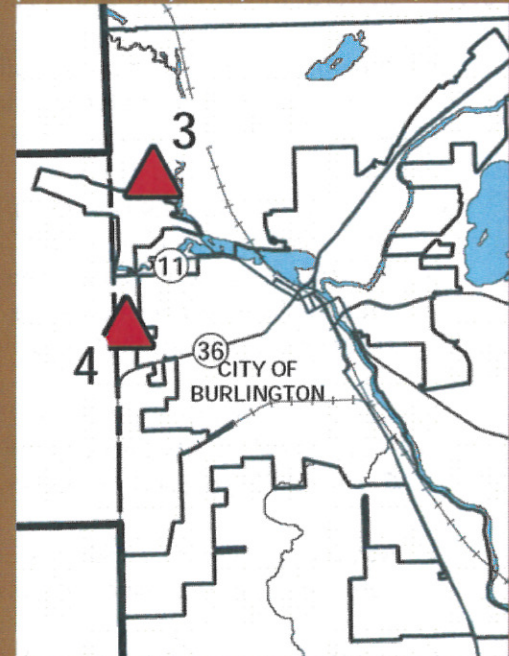
3.2.1 New Parkland Locations

The *Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035* (2009) identifies two potential locations for future parkland development to serve City of Burlington populations. See Image 1. These parks were identified as city parks, and each is anticipated to be approximately 21 acres in size. One of the sites is located approximately north of the Burlington Municipal Airport, south of Spring Prairie Road (3), the other is located approximately south of STH 11, east of Mormon Road (4). Both potential sites are located outside current city limits.

The public participation process revealed need for athletic facilities in these locations. Master planning of these parks should involve a consensus-driven public engagement process to ensure facilities development adequately meets the needs of local user groups. Timing of park development is largely dependent upon adequate funding and availability of land.

Development plans have also been proposed for a residential subdivision in the southern portion of the city and include a large parcel dedicated for parkland. When this project is implemented, the city

Image 1: Future Burlington Park Locations
(Racine County Comprehensive Plan)



should insist that enough “usable” land is set aside to accommodate the needs of the neighborhood residents.

3.2.2 New Facilities Development

There are several opportunities for new facilities development that warrant mention. These facilities will increase the functional enjoyment of public spaces and enhance the recreational capacity of existing parks or can fill a void in the existing park system.

Beverly Jo Park

There is a wooded area to the west of the tower and north of the park that would offer an excellent opportunity for a nine-hole disc golf course. The existing trails could be improved at minimal cost to establish the course.

Grove Street Park

This unused strip of land could be developed to provide an off-street multi-use path to connect the trail from Steinhoff Park to Echo Park adding a vital connection and value to the space.

Hintz Complex and Sunset Park

Baseball in Burlington is a prominent family activity and draws residents of all ages. The addition of play structures at Hintz Complex and Sunset Park would provide a recreation venue for the younger siblings of youth participating in baseball programming.

Skateboard Park

Surveys and stakeholder interviews revealed a lack of activities for residents aged 13-18. Anecdotally, many respondents thought the skate park was a major draw for this age bracket and their recreation needs are currently underserved. The original location is too far removed from active streets to ensure informal supervision and the City should consider selling this parcel. A new location is preferred.

Bicycle Network

The functionality of the bicycle network in Burlington would be greatly improved by connecting the White River Trail to the Burlington-Kansasville Trail. There are some local connections and some important river crossings that are already available within the network. A better signage system, and more formalized through-routes, would allow local businesses to capitalize on potential business being lost because current trail users are not effectively directed or routed through commercial areas.

Community Garden

Senior groups and attendees of the public information meeting mentioned the desire for community gardens. In many communities, a strip of land is made available for plots that are rented, tended, and maintained by local groups and individual users. The city should coordinate with interested parties to identify a central location that is accessible and can provide a water source.

3.3 City Operations and Maintenance

There are unique agreements with many user groups in Burlington that enables the park system to operate through a variety of cost-sharing, private maintenance, and intergovernmental coordination. The following recommendations speak to formalizing agreements and programming.

3.3.1 Formal Agreements

It is vital that the existing relationships between user groups, the City of Burlington, Burlington School District, and Racine County continue if current levels of service are to be maintained. It is recommended that city staff develop formal joint use policies and agreements between the City, School District, neighboring communities, Racine County and recreation associations to ensure a seamless relationship.

3.3.2 Hard Surface Reconditioning

If tennis courts are to remain an active use feature, the courts will need to be repaved with possible base rebuilding. This plan recommends completion of a detailed inventory of all paved trails, parking lots, athletic courts, and tennis courts. The inventory should include condition information on each site and an asphalt surfacing plan completed for sites prioritized by use and condition.

3.3.3 Sale of Public Property

From the perspective of use, there are some facilities within the current park system that offer little active or passive recreation. One of the sites, Nestles Park, is situated between STH 83 and the Wisconsin Central Railroad line across from the Nestle manufacturing plant. This space is not accessible by pedestrians and contains some open space and tree plantings. It serves as a visual buffer from the railroad line and little more. This property is an example of a parcel that should be considered for sale to a private party. A formal policy should be written that discusses rezoning parcels in anticipation of sale, and other conditions for vacating public property. Other properties, such as Watertower Park, are remnants of prior utilities and add little to the recreational network.

3.4 Individual Park Recommendations

The following section discusses the detailed improvements identified through the public process and requested by the Park Board for each park within the Burlington system. These items will also be included in the 5 year action plan in Chapter 4. Recommendations that are universal to all parks in the system include the addition of consistent park signage, trash receptacles, and bicycle racks.

During the public input process, several issues repeatedly surfaced from different stakeholder groups. Topics include the need for additional baseball and soccer facilities to meet the increasing demand, additional bicycle trail connections and facilities, and the future of the public pool located in Devor Park.

Due to the successes of the Burlington sports organizations, athletes from surrounding municipalities regularly travel to play with the Burlington based teams, thereby placing

Specific recommendations and general cost estimates have been organized by park name and classification on the following pages.

MINI PARKS**Benson Park****Park Description**

This 0.55 acre park is located at the terminus of Wisconsin Street on the banks of the Fox River. This park sits adjacent to the larger Wehmhoff Jucker Park and could be visually mistaken for an extension of this parcel. There are no amenities in this park and it is comprised of general open space and large mature trees.

**Site Analysis Summary****Existing Facilities**

- General open space

Issues:

- The riverbank should be monitored for flood damage.
- Mature trees may require pruning for safety.

Improvement Options:

- Install shoreline stabilization materials.

Program Details**Programs and Events**

- None

Revenue Generators

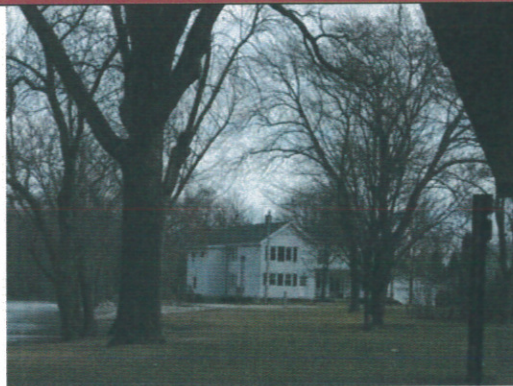
- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing

Improvement Estimate

- Shoreline Stabilization
\$ 10,000 - DNR NPS Grant, CIP/Park Development



Beverly-Jo Park

Park Description

This 1.63 acre park is located at the terminus of Dunford Drive on the City's south end. This parcel is a mix of general open space and mature hickory and oak trees with an old chainlink backstop in the southwest corner. Steep slopes offer winter sledding opportunities and existing primitive trails offer fair weather walking. Views to the west overlook the industrial park. The City owns a parcel to the north and east containing a water tower and heavily wooded area. Some of this lot is lighted.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Sledding hill
- Sandlot backstop
- Hiking trails

Issues:

- There is very limited parking.
- No pedestrian walkways mean that this facility is not ADA compliant.
- The existing backstop is poor condition.
- Very large trees will need low limb pruning and preventative maintenance to ensure safety.

Improvement Options:

- Consider installing a small parking lot adjacent to the water tower to accommodate park users.
- The wooded area to the west of the tower and north of the park would offer an excellent opportunity for a nine hole disc golf course and would increase park use. The existing trails could be improved at minimal cost to establish the course.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing
- Tree maintenance

Improvement Estimate

- Parking area
\$ 10,000 - DNR ADLP Grant, CIP/Park Development
- Disc Golf Course
\$ 7,500 - Private donation, CIP/Park Development, local support group



Meinhardt Park

Park Description

This 0.34 acre park is located on Spring Street on the banks of the Fox River. General open space on the river offers views of the riverwalk and downtown. There are a few parking stalls to the west of the park and two benches. This park serves as open space for the Burlington Senior Center.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- General open space
- Two benches
- Stone steps providing water access

Issues:

- General turf is in poor condition.

Improvement Options:

- Improve turf conditions
- Consider the installation of a small gazebo to serve park visitors from the Senior Center.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing

Improvement Estimate

- Gazebo
\$ 10,000 - CIP/Park Development



Steinhoff Park

Park Description

This 1.69 acre park is located on Cedar Drive in the City's north neighborhood. Situated in a natural bowl, the setting is quite attractive and well landscaped. A play structure and swings occupy one corner with general open space, a sledding hill, and sand volleyball court spaced throughout the park. The west side of the park is bordered by a corridor ideal for a multi-use path connecting to Grove Street to the south.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Swing set
- Play equipment
- Sand volleyball
- Sledding hill

Issues:

- There are no park signs, bicycle racks, benches, or trash receptacles.
- The playground area is not ADA accessible. The neighborhood sidewalks end abruptly at the park entrance.
- Mature trees may require pruning to ensure safety.

Improvement Options:

- Install a bicycle rack in convenient locations.
- Expand the existing sidewalk system to provide ADA compliant access to park facilities.
- Connect the park entrance walk to the path in the southwest corner of the park to connect users to Grove Street.
- Install a park name and rules sign.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing

Improvement Estimate

- Park sign
\$ 1000 - CIP/Park Development
- Bicycle rack
\$ 500 - CIP/Park Development
- Path connection
\$ 24,000 – WisDOT TE grant, CIP/Park Development



Wagner Park

Park Description

This 1.59 acre park is located between the banks of the White River and STH 11 on the north end of the City. It is predominantly general open space with mature trees throughout the linear park. Concrete block banks protect the turf areas from high river water levels.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Swing set
- Restroom enclosure
- Wobble structure
- Play equipment
- Historic marker
- Benches
- Drinking water

Issues:

- The sidewalk along STH 11 ends abruptly at the park and does not provide accessibility options for pedestrians.
- The concrete block banks are in poor condition. Many of the blocks are broken and collapsing.
- There are no accommodations for bicyclists using the park.

Improvement Options:

- Install bicycle racks in convenient locations.
- Expand the existing sidewalk system to provide ADA compliant access to park facilities.
- Replace shoreline stabilization materials.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing
- Restroom maintenance and winterization

Improvement Estimate

• Shoreline Stabilization
\$ 23,000 - DNR NPS Grant, CIP/Park Development

• Bicycle racks
\$ 500 - CIP/Park Development

• New sidewalk
\$ 5,000 - CIP/Park Development



Wehmoff Square

Park Description

This 0.87 acre park is located on the corner of Washington Street and Pine Street. The "Town Square" is well landscaped and is frequently used for lunchtime escapes, public gatherings, and educational opportunities. A pioneer cabin, garden, paver walkways, extensive seating options and an open air pavilion offer users various interests. A kiosk for public notices and one bicycle rack also exist on the Pine Street side.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Pioneer Cabin and garden
- Paver walkway
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Pedestrian lighting
- Bicycle parking
- Kiosk
- Open pavilion
- Drinking fountain
- Flag pole

Issues:

- There is only one bicycle rack for this park.

Improvement Options:

- Install additional bicycle parking in convenient locations.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing
- Landscape maintenance
- Cabin maintenance and winterization

Improvement Estimate

- Bicycle rack
- \$ 500 - CIP/Park Development



Westedge Park (and Dyer School Fields)

Park Description

This 1.69 acre park is located south of Dyer Middle School and is accessible from Hillside Drive. The park contains general open space and is visually indecipherable from the softball fields on the school property. Four ballfields with backstops, team benches, and excellent infields are available for informal games. The backstop fencing is in excellent condition.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Four softball fields
- Storage Shed

Issues:

- There is no parking available for park users other than streetside on Hillside Drive.
- No sidewalk or path exists to access the site. This is not ADA accessible.
- The park is not signed in any way.
- There are no restrooms or drinking water.
- Drainage issues on field #4.

Improvement Options:

- Install a sidewalk or path from Hillside Drive to the ballfield complex.
- Install a park identification and rules sign.
- Construct restroom facility.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- Burlington Girls Softball

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing
- Infield maintenance

Improvement Estimate

- Restroom facility
- \$ 40,000 – Private donation, CIP/Park Development



COMMUNITY PARKS

Devor Park

Park Description

This park is located on Amanda Street and contains approximately 4.63 acres. Amenities include the community swimming pool, play structure, tennis courts, general open space, sledding hill, and pavilion. The parking allocation may be substandard for a park of this size with these types of amenities.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Community pool
- General open space
- Open air shelter
- Benches
- Play structure
- Two bicycle racks
- Two tennis courts
- Swings
- Picnic tables
- Basketball court

Issues:

- The parking lot striping pattern is very confusing.
- The basketball backboard is in poor condition
- The playground area and shelter are not ADA accessible.
- The path to the tennis courts is very steep.
- There is concern over future maintenance and operation costs.

Improvement Options:

- Replace the basketball backstop.
- Provide a sidewalk to the playground area and pavilion to provide ADA compliance.
- Regrade and repave the path to the tennis courts.
- Restripe the parking lot to provide better circulation and possibly increase the number of parking stalls.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- Pool user fees

Maintenance Program

- Mowing

Improvement Estimate

- Basketball goal
\$ 1,000 - CIP/Park Development
- Sidewalk to pavilion
\$ 5,000 - CIP/Park Development



Echo Veterans Memorial Park

Park Description

This park is located between the banks of Echo Lake and STH 36, and contains approximately 10.48 acres. This is one of the most heavily used City parks and offers a variety of amenities. The park is easily accessible by automobile, pedestrians, and bicycles. The park contains a continuous path system connecting many of the uses including the playground, lakefront, shelters, and veterans memorial. The dam and spillway on the White River offer a major attraction for fisherman.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- General open space
- Play structures
- Two open air shelters
- Restrooms
- 5' wide trail system
- Gazebo
- Four swing sets
- Benches
- Drinking fountain
- Funnel ball

Issues:

- Old benches should be replaced.
- Mature trees require pruning to ensure safety.
- There is not enough seating for parents near the play structure.
- There is no ADA accessible access to the path system except for the farthest entrance in the park.
- The parking lot striping pattern is very confusing.

Improvement Options:

- Prune or remove hazardous trees as needed.
- Reconfigure the parking lot to provide better circulation.
- Install bicycle parking facilities.
- Remove sidewalk along STH 36 and replace with multi-use path connecting to Grove Street to the north.
- Repair the concrete walk along the spillway to ensure safety.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- n/a

Revenue Generators

- n/a

Maintenance Program

- Mowing
- Tree Pruning
- Maintenance and winterization of restrooms

Improvement Estimate

- New path along STH 83
\$ 14,000 – DOT TE Grant, CIP/Park Development
- Bicycle racks
\$ 500 - CIP/Park Development
- ADA ramps from parking lot
\$ 3,000 - CIP/Park Development



Festival Grounds

Park Description

This property is located Maryland Avenue on the old City landfill site. The “park” contains approximately 5.05 acres and is used primarily once a year for the Chocolate City Festival activities. The grounds are mostly gravel and contain a few concrete pads used for tent setup. Security fencing provides site security.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Gravel parking lot
- Chainlink security fencing
- Concrete tent pads
- Paved walkway
- Grandstand

Issues:

- Parking and access

Improvement Options:

- Restripe parking lot
- Signage

Program Details

Programs and Events

- Chocolate Fest

Revenue Generators

- Special Events

Maintenance Program

-
-

Improvement Estimate



McCanna Park 1

Park Description

This park is located on McCanna Parkway at the corner of State Street, and contains approximately 33.30 acres. Rockland Lake lies to the east of the park and the site is predominantly covered in wetlands. A parking lot serves the improved park area which includes a shelter, restrooms, and playground area. The bike trail is located across the street and should be connected to the park. A second portion of the park lies west of McCanna Parkway and is 100% general open space. This area is most likely used by residents of the adjacent apartment complex.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- General open space
- Play structure
- Swings
- Open air pavilion
- Restrooms
- Grill

Issues:

- There is no bicycle parking, yet this park is adjacent to the bike trail.
- The pavilion and restrooms are not ADA accessible.
- The turf appears to be in poor condition. Possible reasons include poor drainage patterns or frequent flooding.

Improvement Options:

- Install bicycle parking in convenient locations.
- Provide a new ADA compliant sidewalk or path from the parking lot to the shelter and restrooms.
- Install a sidewalk or path from the crosswalk to the parking area. This will allow bicyclists and pedestrians to access the park from the trail system without crossing traffic twice.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- Private gatherings

Revenue Generators

- Shelter rental fees

Maintenance Program

- Mowing
- Maintenance and winterization of restrooms

Improvement Estimate

- Bicycle racks
\$ 500 - CIP/Park Development
- Sidewalk to shelter
\$ 6,000 - CIP/Park Development
- 10' wide path to intersection
\$ 8,000 - CIP/Park Development



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Riverfront Park

Park Description

This 1.6 acre park is located between Bridge Street and the Fox River. Heavily used by pedestrians and cyclists, this linear park connects the downtown, Riverside Park, St. Mary's Park, and the County owned Benson Park via the County bicycle trail. The park contains various public amenities in addition to the lighted formal riverwalk.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- General open space
- Open air shelter with restrooms
- Drinking fountain
- Bicycle parking facilities
- Multi-use path
- Pedestrian walkway
- Picnic tables
- Benches

Issues:

- None

Improvement Options:

- None

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing
- Trash collection

Improvement Estimate

None



Riverside Park

Park Description

This 4.35 acre park is located on Congress Street on the north bank of the Fox River just east of the confluence with the White river. A bridge connects the park to Wehmhoff Jucker Park on the south banks of the river. Amenities include an open air shelter with picnic tables, two play structures, two swing sets, adequate parking, sand volleyball, and general open space. This park is often used for a kayak and canoe launch, but also suffers from severe flooding damage in periods of sustained high water.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- General open space
- Two play structures
- Two swing sets
- Canoe launch
- Open air pavilion with picnic tables
- Restrooms
- Horseshoe pits
- Two sand volleyball courts
- Multi-use path
- Bridge to Wehmhoff Jucker Park
- Park sign
- Grill station

Issues:

- Severe erosion on the river banks often occurs when flooded.
- One of the play structures is not accessible by sidewalk.
- There is a missing link in the path system forcing users onto Congress Street.
- There is a lack of ADA accessible water access.

Improvement Options:

- Install sidewalk segment to provide ADA compliant access to the second play structure.
- Provide bicycle parking facilities in a convenient location.
- Utilize bank stabilization methods to protect from further erosion.
- Install a 10' wide path connecting the west and east sides of the park.
- Install an ADA compliant fishing platform and path.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- Private gatherings

Revenue Generators

- Shelter rental fees

Maintenance Program

- Mowing

Improvement Estimate

- ADA fishing platform
\$8,000 - DNR ADLP Grant, CIP/Park Development
- Multi-use trail connection
\$ 40,000 - DNR ADLP Grant, CIP/Park Development
- Shoreline Stabilization
\$ 85,000 - DNR NPS or ADLP Grant, CIP/Park Development



St. Mary's Park

Park Description

This park is located on Calumet Street and is adjacent to the Fox River. The park is split in half by a parcel used for dumping and storage of City materials. Due to the frequent flooding of the park, recreational use is somewhat limited. The south end contains a large fenced dog park and portable restrooms. A bridge connects this park to the County owned Benson Park on the east side of the river. Amenities include a canoe launch, benches, and picnic tables. The Citywide bike trail runs through this park and connects to the riverwalk and the county bike trail.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Picnic tables
- Fenced dog park
- Canoe launch
- Lighted bike trail
- Trailhead kiosk
- Parking area
- Portable restrooms
- Pedestrian bridge

Issues:

- Frequent flooding occurs with seasonal rains.
- There is no park identification or rules sign.
- There are no restrooms on the north end of the park.
- The flooded soils provide limited stability and nutrients for mature vegetation.

Improvement Options:

- Install bicycle racks for trail users.
- Install a park identification and rules sign.
- Install pavement and formal parking area at south end of park adjacent to the dog park area.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing
- Debris cleanup

Improvement Estimate

- Bicycle racks
\$ 500 - CIP/Park Development
- Park sign
\$ 1,000 - CIP/Park Development
- Paved parking area
\$ 15,000 - Private donation, CIP/Park Development



Wehmhoff Jucker Park

Park Description

This park is located at the confluence of the White and Fox rivers and contains approximately 3.28 acres. Large mature trees provide shade for users of this park which is connected to Riverside Park via a bridge providing access to the County bike trail system. The park is heavily used due to the proximity to downtown and the excellent trail connections. The pavilion is fully ADA accessible, but the parking lot is located on the opposite end of the park with no provisions for pedestrian movement between the facilities.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- General open space
- Open air pavilion
- Picnic tables and grill
- Basketball court
- Sand volleyball court
- Bicycle trail with pedestrian scale lighting
- Park signage
- Restrooms
- Horseshoe pit

Issues:

- The banks are not protected from rising flood waters.
- The existing parking lot is in poor condition.
- There are no bicycle parking facilities.

Improvement Options:

- The entry drive and parking lot should paved or regraded to eliminate large potholes.
- A sidewalk or path should be installed from the parking area to the shelter.
- Install bicycle parking facilities in convenient locations.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- Private gatherings

Revenue Generators

- Shelter rentals

Maintenance Program

- Mowing

Improvement Estimate

- Paved parking area
\$ 15,000 - CIP/Park Development
- Sidewalk to shelter
\$ 8,000 - DNR ADLP Grant, CIP/Park Development
- Shoreline Stabilization
\$ 100,000 - DNR NPS Grant, CIP/Park Development
- Bicycle racks
\$ 500 - CIP/Park Development



SPECIAL USE**Beaumont Field/Congress Field****Park Description**

This 7.42 acre park is located on Milwaukee Avenue (STH 36/83) across from Echo Park. This is considered the City's premier baseball facility and is used by community teams as well as the high school teams. There is a small practice field to the south of the main field and is accessible from Congress Street. The facility is equipped with bleachers, restrooms, masonry dugouts, and lights.

**Site Analysis Summary****Existing Facilities**

- Lighted baseball diamond
- Bleachers
- Dugouts
- Storage shed
- Restrooms and concessions
- Drinking fountain
- Batting cages
- Park identification sign
- Picnic tables

Issues:

- None

Improvement Options:

- None

Program Details**Programs and Events**

- Baseball 2000

Revenue Generators

- Concessions

Maintenance Program

- Private

Improvement Estimate

None



Grove Street Park

Park Description

This 0.31 acre park is located between Grove Street and the banks of Echo Lake. This linear space is heavily wooded and offers no formal amenities. There is potential for this parcel to provide a link from the proposed trail system beginning in Steinhoff Park to Echo Park.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Various tree plantings

Issues:

- None

Improvement Options:

- Install a multi-use path to connect the trail from Steinhoff Park to Echo Park.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing
- Tree pruning

Improvement Estimate

- Multi-use trail or painted bicycle lanes
\$ 16,000 – WisDOT TE or BFPF Grant, CIP/Park Development



Hintz Complex

Park Description

This 6.71 acre park is located on Maryland Avenue across from the Festival Grounds. This park contains two little league baseball fields and one full size adult field. A large paved parking area also provides overflow parking during the Chocolate City Festival. The site is also a former landfill.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Two Little League baseball diamonds
- One full size baseball diamond
- Concession stand with restrooms
- Press box

Issues:

- The facility has reached player capacity.

Improvement Options:

- Consider expanding the recreational facility to the east if the land becomes available for purchase.
- Install a play structure for younger age children who are waiting for older siblings.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- Little League

Revenue Generators

- Concessions

Maintenance Program

- Mowing

Improvement Estimate

- Play structure
\$ 15,000 - CIP/Park Development



Nestles Park

Park Description

This 2.44 acre linear park is situated between STH 83 and the Wisconsin Central Railroad line across from the Nestle manufacturing plant. This space is not accessible by pedestrians and is comprised of general open space and various tree plantings. It serves as a visual buffer from the railroad line.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Various tree plantings
- General open space

Issues:

- No accessibility.
- No parking.

Improvement Options:

- This park may be a suitable location for a "Welcome to Burlington" Entrance sign.
- Consider re-zoning this land out of park or selling for another use.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing
- Tree pruning

Improvement Estimate

- Park sign
- \$ 1,000 - CIP/Park Development



Skateboard Park

Park Description

This 0.84 acre parcel is located on Maryland Avenue adjacent to the festival grounds. This site was developed by volunteer efforts and a youth skateboarding organization and fell into disrepair before all equipment was removed. The park is now closed.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Chain link fence

Issues:

- None

Improvement Options:

- Rebuild skate park in new location.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- None

Improvement Estimate

TBD



Sunset Park

Park Description

This 1.91 acre park is located on Sunset Drive at the corner of Sheldon Street. The majority of the parcel is a high quality little league baseball field with lights, dugouts, press box, restrooms, and concessions. The site also includes two tennis courts in very poor condition, and a gravel parking area.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Two tennis courts
- Little league baseball field
- Gravel parking lot
- One bicycle rack
- Bleachers
- Restrooms and concessions
- CMU dugouts
- Wooden storage shed
- Drinking fountain

Issues:

- The tennis courts are in terrible condition and should be renovated or removed.
- Gravel parking does not provide ADA accessibility for spectators.
- A missing sidewalk or path could connect Beloit Street to the neighborhoods and Beloit Pedestrian way to the west.

Improvement Options:

- Install a 10' wide path to connect the east end of the park and the west parking area to the Beloit Pedestrian Way if it is developed in the future.
- Remove the existing tennis courts.
- Pave the existing parking area and provide ADA compliance.
- Install a playstructure for younger age children.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- Little League

Revenue Generators

- Concessions

Maintenance Program

- Mowing
- Restroom maintenance and winterization
- Infield maintenance

Improvement Estimate

- New east/west path
\$ 20,000 – WisDOT TE Grant, CIP/Park Development
- Pave parking lot
\$ 15,000 - DNR ADLP Grant, CIP/Park Development
- Play structure
\$ 15,000 - CIP/Park Development



Watertower Park

Park Description

This 0.06 acre park is located on the top of a hill at Lewis Street and James Street. Amenities on the site are limited to a historic water tower structure and various tree plantings. There is no parking and pedestrian access is very limited. Steep slopes and a large concrete retaining wall are prominent features of this special use park. It is possible that the historic building may have some limited reuse in the future.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Various tree plantings
- Uneven turf
- Old fencing
- Historic water tower
- Steep slopes

Issues:

- Several dead trees could cause safety concerns.
- There are no signs identifying the park name or rules.

Improvement Options:

- Install a park identification and rules sign.
- Prune or remove trees as necessary.

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing
- Tree pruning

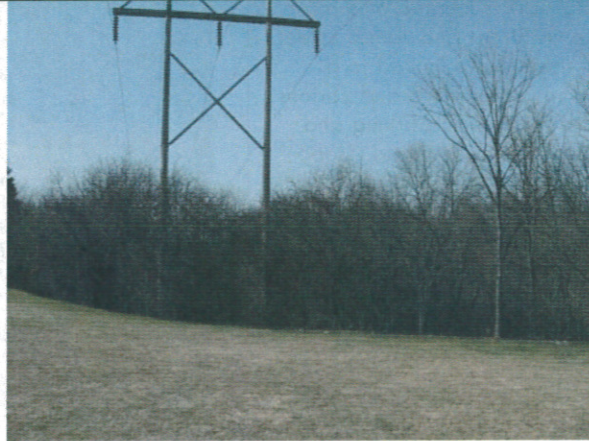
Improvement Estimate

- Park sign
- \$ 1,000 - CIP/Park Development.



CONSERVANCY PARKS**Bear Meadows Park 1****Park Description**

This natural area is located at the end of Monica Avenue and contains approximately 4.24 acres. The site is heavily wooded and has steep slopes creating a large depression. The site has very little recreation value other than for protection of its natural resources.

**Site Analysis Summary****Existing Facilities**

- None

Issues:

- None

Improvement Options:

- None

Program Details**Programs and Events**

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- None

Improvement Estimate

None



Bear Meadows Park 2

Park Description

This park is located on Cooper Hawk Drive and contains approximately 1.66 acres. The site is heavily wooded and contains an ATC power line. The site has very steep slopes and provides little recreation value other than the protection of natural resources.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- None

Issues:

- None

Improvement Options:

- None

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- None

Improvement Estimate

None



McCanna Park 2

Park Description

This park is located on STH 11 directly across from McCanna Parkway and McCanna Park 1. The approximately 1.20 acre parcel is adjacent to a large wetland and contains predominantly general open space. The bicycle trail runs through this site, but it has no other improvements.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Bicycle trail

Issues:

- None

Improvement Options:

- None

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing

Improvement Estimate

None



McCanna Wetland Preserve

Park Description

This park is located on Browns Lake Drive and contains approximately 7.37 acres. The site is predominantly wetland or shallow pond area. There is little recreation value other than the protection of natural resources. An ATC power line runs through the site connecting to the north and south.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- None

Issues:

- None

Improvement Options:

- None

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- None

Improvement Estimate

None



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City of Burlington



Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

4 IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter of the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan includes a compilation of capital improvements, park acquisition and development mechanisms, and funding sources. The chapter also includes the process for adopting, monitoring, and updating this plan.

4.1 Capital Improvements Plan 2010-2014

Capital improvements to a park are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park. Capital improvements are designated and funded individually through segregated municipal funds. Routine maintenance, on the other hand, is considered to be the repair and upkeep of existing park facilities, such as painting a shelter building. Routine maintenance of park facilities does not appreciably increase the value or usefulness of the park, and is traditionally funded through the park department's operations budget. Non-routine maintenance of park facilities, such as upgrading a toilet facility to be barrier-free, is usually considered to be a capital improvement.

Most projects can be easily identified and categorized, but some are difficult. When a project falls on the borderline between a capital improvement and maintenance, the overall cost becomes the determinant. Projects with a high cost, such as that for seal coating roads or parking lots, are categorized as capital improvements.

The capital improvements program for each park is a combination of several types of projects. These projects are ranked according to their importance and priority in the overall development of the park. Generally, capital improvements are ranked in the following manner:

- a. Improvements to Existing Facilities that will:
 - i. Correct health and safety hazards
 - ii. Upgrade deficient facilities
 - iii. Modernize adequate but outdated facilities
- b. Installation of facilities as deemed appropriate and necessary through public demand (public meetings, Park Board input, expected population growth)
- c. Development of new facilities as deemed necessary through comparison to NRPA park and recreation standards

Specifically, improvements to existing facilities rank the highest in the capital improvements program, while new facilities are usually ranked lower, according to their relative need in the park. Improvements that correct health and safety hazards are always the highest ranking priority. Improvements that are deemed necessary through comparison to national park and recreation standards are usually ranked the lowest. The following table depicts the total dollars to be spent for each park improvement discussed in this section. Costs provided below are based upon recent actual regional project construction costs. With the variable economic conditions, it is suggested that the City of Burlington explore all possible funding options whether it be potential grant funding, public dollars, or private donations.

Recommendations are discussed in Chapter 3 of this report and are the basis for the estimated costs. Priorities were created to aid the City of Burlington in establishing future capital budgets and ensuring proper allocation of funding. A **priority 1** will be considered an immediate action item; **priority 2** should be considered and funded within the next two to five years. A **priority 3** will be considered as funding becomes available over the next five to ten years. Priorities correlate to feedback gathered from public meetings and surveys.

Table 3.1 City of Burlington Park and Recreation Area Recommended Improvements

Park/Trail	Recommendation	Estimated Cost (2010)	Funding Opportunity	Priority
Benson Park	Shoreline Stabilization	\$10,000	NPS	1
Beverly Jo Park	Parking Area	\$10,000	ADLP	2
Beverly Jo Park	Disc Golf Course	\$7,500	Private, City	2
Meinhardt Park	Gazebo	\$10,000	City	2
Steinhoff Park	Park Sign	\$1,000	City	1
Steinhoff Park	Bicycle Rack	\$500	City	1
Steinhoff Park	Path Connection	\$24,000	TE, City	1
Wagner Park	Shoreline Stabilization	\$23,000	NPS, City	1
Wagner Park	Bicycle Rack	\$500	City	1
Wagner Park	Sidewalk Connection	\$5,000	City	1
Wehmhoff Square	Bicycle Rack	\$500	City	1
Westedge Park	Restroom Facility	\$40,000	Private, City	2
Devour Park	Basketball Goals	\$1,000	City	1
Devour park	Sidewalk Connection	\$5,000	City	1
Echo Veterans Park	Path along STH 83	\$14,000	TE, City	3
Echo Veterans Park	Bicycle Rack	\$500	City	1
Echo Veterans Park	ADA Ramps	\$3,000	City	1
McCanna Park 1	Bicycle Rack	\$500	City	1
McCanna Park 1	Sidewalk Connection	\$6,000	City	2
McCanna Park 1	Path Connection	\$8,000	TE, City	2
Riverside Park	ADA Fishing Platform	\$8,000	ADLP, City	2
Riverside Park	Path Connection	\$40,000	ADLP, City, TE	2
Riverside Park	Shoreline Stabilization	\$85,000	NPS, ADLP, City	1
St. Mary's Park	Bicycle Rack	\$500	City	1
St. Mary's Park	Park Sign	\$1,000	City	1
St. Mary's Park	Paved Parking Area	\$15,000	Private, City	2

Wehmhoff Jucker Park	Paved Parking Area	\$15,000	City	3
Wehmhoff Jucker Park	Sidewalk Connection	\$8,000	ADLP, City	3
Wehmhoff Jucker Park	Shoreline Stabilization	\$100,000	ADLP, NPS, City	2
Wehmhoff Jucker Park	Bicycle Rack	\$500	City	1
Grove Street Park	Trail or Lane Connection	\$16,000	BPFP, TE, City	2
Hintz Complex	Play Structure	\$15,000	City	2
Nestles Park	Park Sign	\$1,000	City	3
Sunset Park	Path Connection	\$20,000	TE, City	1
Sunset Park	Paved Parking Area	\$15,000	ADLP, City	2
Sunset Park	Play Structure	\$15,000	City	2
Watertower Park	Park Sign	\$1,000	City	3

4.2 Park Acquisition and Development Mechanisms

4.2.1 Parkland Dedication Ordinance

Many communities, including the City of Burlington, have developer exactions for parkland acquisition. These exactions are designed to help a growing community acquire new park land to keep pace with new residential development. As residents move into a new subdivision, they place additional stress on existing park facilities. Developer exactions, agreed upon during the subdivision review and approval period, provide land or cash or a combination of both to be used for the provision of park facilities for the new neighborhood.

The City of Burlington general code (Section 278-51 "Public sites and open spaces") covers dedication of lands and public site fee options. Subdividers of land where a public space has been designated on the Comprehensive Plan, Comprehensive Plan component, Official Map, or component neighborhood development plan, are required to make these spaces part of the plat. Dedication of the public space can take three forms:

1. Dedication of site option – the public space is dedicated to the public at the rate of one acre for each 100 proposed or potential dwelling units;
2. Reservation of site option – the public space is reserved at the time of the final plat for a period not to exceed three years and the subdivider is required to pay a public site fee;
3. Public site fee option – if the subdivision does not encompass a public space, a fee is collected to serve future populations elsewhere. The fee for the acquisition of public sites is placed in a special fund in the amount set by Common Council for each proposed dwelling unit.

Suggestions for Improving the Parkland Dedication Ordinance

Usable Lands

Because the intent of parkland dedication requirements is to provide sufficient recreation lands for new residents, neighborhood parks should be developed within new developments.

Neighborhood parks are designed to provide active and passive recreation activities and

organized league recreation, as well as informal “pick up” play. The primary user ranges from 5 to 15 years of age. However, informal recreation opportunities cater to groups of all ages. The service area of 1/2 mile radius should include the entire neighborhood; with some neighborhood overlap if features are unique. The average neighborhood park commonly ranges from 5 to 10 acres in size and serves from 1,000 to 5,000 people – basically one park for every elementary school.

An improved ordinance would include the following land specifications for negotiation with developers in planned neighborhoods:

- Land should be contiguous and in a configuration to serve the development(s) with proposed recreational components. Careful consideration should also be made for providing connections to other new or expected subdivisions. In cases where several new subdivisions are being developed within a “planned neighborhood,” the opportunity to develop a larger neighborhood park (5 to 10 acres) in a central location should be explored as the best option rather than several smaller parks that are less land intensive.

4.2.2 User Groups

The unique relationship between the City of Burlington, Burlington School District, Racine County, and a variety of user and service groups provide a diverse recreation experience. Several user groups interviewed during the stakeholder interviews (See Appendix A) mentioned fundraising and other avenues of revenue generation that could help fund, maintain, and provide equipment for new parks or facilities development. The city should coordinate with potential user groups when planning new facilities to see if cost-sharing, donation, or outright purchase options exist.

4.2.3 Planned Giving

In many communities, parkland development often occurs with the availability of land. Donations of private land for a public purpose is not uncommon, but there needs to be criteria for accepting lands, and a formal procedure for how the land will be planned and used in the best interest of the community. A planned giving program through the City of Burlington would allow prospective patrons to dedicate land in a legal manner that may also provide comfort in knowing how the land will be utilized.

4.2.4 Grant Funding

Implementation dollars are available for acquisition and development of recreation spaces and facilities. Linear parks and trails can be funded through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) or the Department of Transportation (WDOT). The WDNR also provides monies for the acquisition of lands, the stabilization of shorelands, and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas. A complete list of grant opportunities is provided in Section 4.3.

4.3 Grant Information for Park Acquisition and Development

The state and federal government provides money to local governments for the acquisition and development of parks. It is important to note that most of the programs require that a local government submit to the WDNR a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan or master plan which has been approved by resolution by the submitting local government. By adopting the

2010 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan with a resolution, the City of Burlington has met the eligibility requirement for these grant programs through the year 2014. This section provides general information and contact names for many of the grant programs that may be used to acquire and develop local park facilities.

Grant Information Matrix														
GRANT PROGRAM	Funding as of 2006	Fee Simple Purchase	Easements	Facilities	Land Practice	Habitat Restoration	Bike/Pedestrian Safety	Transit-related Facilities	Administrative Agency	Local Government	Local NCD	Match	Comp. Plan Required	Contact
Wisconsin Stewardship Program														
Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)	\$4.0	X		X		X			WDNR	X	X	50 %	YES	Pat Sheahan, South Central District 275-3315
Urban Rivers	\$1.6	X		X		X			WDNR	X	X	50 %	YES	Pat Sheahan, South Central District 275-3315
Urban Greenspace	\$1.6	X		X					WDNR			50 %	YES	Pat Sheahan, South Central District 275-3315
Acquisition of Development Rights	\$70 Ok		X						WDNR	X	X	50 %	YES	Pat Sheahan, South Central District 275-3315
Federal Programs														
Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$25 Ok	X		X					WDNR	X		50 %	YES	Community Services Specialist, South Central District 275-3218
Recreational Trails Act	\$1.0	X	X	X					WDNR	X		50 %	NO	Community Services Specialist, South Central District 275-3218
Statewide Multi-Modal Improvement Program														
Transportation Enhancements Program								X	WisDOT			20 %		Central Office, John Duffe, 264-8723
Surface Discretionary Grant Program								X	WisDOT			20 %		Paul Wydeven, 266-1535
Federal Transit Administration Grants														
Section 5309 (old Section 3 discretionary funds)								X	WisDOT			20 %		Jerry Smith, 266-0420

CMAQ Improvement Program								X	USDOT			20 %		Central Office, John Duffe, 264-8723
Section 402 Highway Safety Funds														
Community Programs Empowerment Programs Enforcement Programs								X	X	WisDOT		20 %		Jerry Smith, 266-0420
Highway Safety Programs (Section 403)								X	X	WisDOT		20 % - 50 %		Jerry Smith, 266-0420
Research Projects									X	WisDOT		20 %		Jerry Smith, 266-0420
Other Programs														
Wisconsin Main Street Community Program										National Main Street Center	X			Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Downtown Development
Surface Transportation-Environment Cooperative Research Program								X		FHWA		20 %		U.S. Dept. of Transportation
Other State Programs Urban Forestry		\$1K to \$25 K				X				WDNR	X	50 %	NO	Urban Forester South Central District Dave Stevenson 275-3227
Home Depot Community Improvement (Environmental) Grants						X				Home Depot Com. Affairs				Local Home Depot Store Manager
Recreational Boating Facilities and Sport Fish Grants					X						X	50 %	NO	Larry Freidig 266-5897

4.4 Plan Approval and Amendments

Introduction

A prerequisite to participation in outdoor recreation grant programs is the adoption and subsequent Department of Natural Resources acceptance of a local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.

Comprehensive planning is an overall survey of the existing facilities within a given jurisdiction, and gives recommendations for future improvements. A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (CORP) is only the first step in the development of a recreational park site or system.

Master planning, which follows the recommendations of the comprehensive plan, is an overall view and analysis of an existing or proposed park area. The purpose is to guide the orderly development of a park or recreational facility.

Site Planning, is the detailed plan of how an area within a park or recreation area will be developed. Site plans supply the construction details needed to develop a facility recommended in the master plan.

Formal Plan Approval

This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan should be approved by the local governing body. This plan includes a copy of the resolution of adoption in Appendix C.

Amending the Plan

Plan amendments are common and should be considered part of the planning process. They frequently represent good implementation or plan usage and should be acceptable for consideration by local decision-makers. Amendments must follow the same process as the original plan and should be developed in coordination with the Park Board before presented to Common Council for approval. Amendments generally prolong the effectiveness of the parent plan.

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Appendix A:

PIM Proceedings Memo

Stakeholder Interview Summary

Online Survey Summary

City of Burlington Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Public Information Meeting April 28, 2010

Introduction and Purpose

On April 28, 2010 a public information meeting for development the City of Burlington Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was held in the Patriot Room at Veterans Terrace at Echo Park.

The purpose of the meeting was to report on the status of the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, discuss its purpose, and obtain feedback before recommendations are developed. The event was attended by approximately 15 people.

Formal Presentation

The consultants gave a presentation on the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan including the rationale for developing the plan, the planning process, additional public involvement opportunities, and existing conditions and maps. The presentation also discussed responses to the online survey including initial responses.

Hopes and Concerns

Participants were asked to discuss their hopes and concerns for city parks in Burlington. Hopes were described as those things that should be improved, could be beneficial in the future, or activities that should be provided. Concerns were those things that should be changed, could be harmful in the future, or present challenges for implementation. Hopes and Concerns recorded during the formal presentation are listed below.

Hopes	Concerns
There is political will to implement	Adequate funding
Regular annual funding	Costs of operating the pool
The pool at Devor continues to operate	Cost versus recreational value
Existing parks will be evaluated with regard to their recreational value	Not enough baseball field space
Opportunities for winter activities are increased	Too few tennis courts
Additional/improved tennis courts	
Soccer complex	
Additional soccer/baseball fields	
Tot lot at Echo Park	
Frisbee golf or driving range	

Other:

- There should be bathrooms installed at Dyer School/Westedge Park (Girl's Softball)
- Burlington Blue Devil's (Semi-Pro AAA Football) uses Bushnell County Park and is very happy with the facilities and experience in that location

Evaluation and Discussion

Following the formal presentation and Hopes and Concerns discussion, there was informal discussion and evaluation of the displays and maps describing current park facility conditions. General comments include:

- Is it local policy to require partnerships with athletic organizations to maintain facilities? There seems to be a trend (football, soccer, swimming, baseball, softball). What is the level of support required? What is an acceptable use or organization?
- Impact fees are not currently funding parks development because they are dependent on development which has been slow.
- Steinhoff or Beverly Jo as community gardens?
- There should be a formalized "giving program" arranged through the city so that donors know the process and procedure for donating land, purchasing naming rights or equipment, or leaving financial gifts in their will.
- Proposed trail connections were discussed to include Beloit Pedestrian Way connecting the White River Trail and the developed trail network in the downtown district and the Burlington-Kansasville State Trail.

City of Burlington Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Stakeholder Interview Summary

Introduction and Purpose

On April 28, 2010, SAA conducted eight interviews with city-selected stakeholders identified as having interest, expertise, or insight into parks and open space issues within the planning area. There were no members of the Parks and Recreation Committee interviewed. The following groups participated in the interview process:

- 1) Baseball 2000
- 2) Burlington Youth Soccer Club
- 3) Burlington Little League
- 4) Burlington Youth Football
- 5) Bicycling Club (Bob's Pedal Pushers)
- 6) Burlington Girl's Softball
- 7) Cooper School PTO
- 8) Burlington Senior Center

The purpose of the interviews was to collect primary-level data regarding the current and future conditions of parks for all users within the planning area. A special emphasis was placed on collecting information about the perceived adequacy of existing facilities and any related improvements to mitigate concerns.

Each interview lasted about one-half hour although variation occurred due to arrival times and the willingness of interviewees to provide detailed explanations to their responses. Combinations of questions were posed from scaled-response to open ended interrogatives. Not all questions were equally applicable to every interviewee, in fact, given our charge of determining possible improvements for city parks, we quickly found out that many user groups use school district or county parks most frequently. In all cases we recorded information about assets and opportunities for the park they used most often. The results of this exercise would be most effectively utilized if shared with other implementation authorities including the school district and county parks.

Interview Protocol

- SAA staff provided an overview of the project (as a "5-year" plan; developed to prioritize projects and obtain funding).
- A series of questions were asked including background of the organization, a rating of the city park system (scaled 1-5 with 5 being the "highest" or "best"), an organizational "wish list", specific concerns about current conditions, and potential funding alternatives the group has explored or will pursue.

Response Summaries (by group/organization)

A series of standardized questions were prepared and presented to each group. Depending on the willingness of the participant to answer questions, or present their own list of issues or opportunities, topics varied. This was intentional as the value of interviews is to allow the interviewee to present information based on their own values. Response summaries by group are detailed below.

Burlington Spiders Youth Football

- Organization: provides competitive football programming to grades 6-8 fielding three teams. Practice is held at Karcher Middle School where equipment is also stored. Some practices are also held at Waller Elementary. All games are played at Karcher. The organization does not utilize city park space.
- Concerns: weeds are killing the grass at Karcher and it's difficult to maintain the grass due to heavy use (practice 3 times/week with 1 game on weekends; the high school also uses these fields). The organization funds a weeds program but would like to advance a regular maintenance program. There are conflicts with other groups that utilize the space during applications of weed killer. Budget is low for maintenance.
- Funding: the organization currently funds the weed killing program and seeding efforts. They would be willing to help initiate a regular maintenance program.
- Other: very happy with current arrangement at Waller and Karcher.

Burlington Youth Soccer

- Organization: founded in 1991 to provide competitive soccer training to Burlington youth (ages 5-14). There are currently 250 kids participating fielding 26 teams. Competition through Stateline Soccer District. Games are played at Bushnell County Park. The group purchased goals and equipment and helps to fund maintenance of six soccer fields twice per year. The organization does not utilize city park space.
- Concerns: parking at Bushnell County Park is a perceived issue; police enforce no parking along the park road and there are small parking lots. There are a few groups competing for space at Bushnell, and city parks are not large enough to accommodate the range of teams or the sharing of referees effectively. There used to be available space at the city's McCanna Park 1, but it's not used for active recreation anymore. Restroom facilities are also not open during the entire season at Bushnell.
- Funding: the organization uses fundraising to pay expenses and fund participant registration (discount cards).
- Other: the group would like to grow. An additional soccer complex within the city of 10 acres would be large enough to the organization to grow and expand, and to rotate fields for practice or games. The organization cannot raise the capital for land acquisition but could provide facilities and maintenance.

Bicycling

- Organization: interviewers met with owner of Bob's Pedal Pusher at bicycling shop.
- Concerns: signage is not adequate to safely lead new or visiting users through the city and connect the Racine County Trail, Burlington-Kansasville Trail, or White River State Trail. Signage is not only problem as there is a missing trail link in Burlington. There is not a good bicycling map for the city. There is no longer a skatepark and most parks only provide facilities for young children.
- Other: would like paved shoulder on Spring Prairie Road. The city should not route cyclists from the White River State Trail on STH 36.

Burlington Little League

- Organization: provides competitive coed baseball programming to 551 youths ages 5-15 in Burlington. The organization is a non-profit 501(c)3. There are 50 teams and

the organization relies on donations and sponsors for operations expenses which amount to \$150,000 per year. There

- Concerns: an immediate need is netting to protect private property and individuals from foul balls. Hintz Complex does not provide play equipment for young children. Some fields do not drain which causes rain cancellations, these delays can interfere with the Little League World Series schedule. Concession stands are major revenue generators but volunteers are hard to find (many conflicts with supervising younger children). There is a shortage of practice fields and game schedules limit practice times on existing fields. Players from outside the city have been joining the organization.
- Funding: players are charged \$25 for uniforms. Fundraising is not enough to run the program. Any infrastructure improvements (like adding playgrounds) will need to come from the city.
- Other: the city mows and lines the fields, the organization pays for electrician, plumbing and other maintenance fees. The organization has donated restroom facilities (\$40,000 each). The organization would like to grow but has a capacity issue due to limited field space – there would be more players if there were more field space. Current need indicates two additional junior league fields and one additional pony league field would provide adequate accommodations for organization. Beaumont Field (Baseball 2000) is not part of Little League which can cause confusion for donors of the organization who feel they are being asked twice for donations. The organization would like to set up scholarship funds and construct additional batting cages. Intergovernmental cooperation has been outstanding between the city, school district and county (there are no formal agreements).

Burlington Senior Center

- Organization: located in the county services building, the Burlington Senior Center provides activities and fellowship to city residents. Programs include noon meals, daily card playing, adult day care, and special events.
- Concerns: existing park spaces could be better utilized and beautified to provide a greater array of programming. There is no “concerts in the parks” programming and very little in the way of flower planting. There are no community garden plots. Missing links in the bike trails. Possible center relocation. No gazebo in Meinhardt park by the senior center.
- Funding: center is funded by the town and city of Burlington and the United Way.
- Other: community garden plots should be available (possible location is the old city sewage treatment plant). Many seniors would work with master gardeners to beautify Burlington. Getting volunteers is problematic. There is a desire to include a younger clientele (55+) in programming such as softball or other activity but there needs to be more active recruitment.

Baseball 2000

- Organization: is comprised of the Burlington American Legion baseball program, Catholic Central High School, Burlington High School, and the Rotary Barron’s semi-pro team. All teams practice and play at Beaumont Field which is operated by Baseball 2000.
- Concerns: want to work with high school to build a shed (HS will build if Baseball 2000 donates materials). Bleachers are old, few. Many people choose to sit on grass and some feel that is the charm of the facility. Organization would like a scrolling

marquee sign. Parking and access is an issue – Chocolate Fest Grounds are currently utilized for events.

- Funding: there is an aggressive advertising campaign which generates \$15,000 annually; another \$5-10,000 is raised through concessions. This is enough to sustain the park and operations. Large purchases, like new lights that were being installed in April, requires coordination with the city (Baseball 2000 is sharing a portion of the cost).
- Other: Baseball 2000 completely redid the field in 1996-7 and constructed concessions, dugouts, retaining walls, and storage facilities. The field was recently rated as a Top 10 in Wisconsin. Long-term some sort of artificial surfacing could open the facility to other types of use (soccer, etc.), but cost is substantially prohibitive.

Burlington Girl's Softball

- Organization: provides recreational softball programming to girls in grades K-12. There are generally 400-500 participants. The organization uses four softball diamonds located at Dyer Intermediate School. High school participants will also use Bushnell County Park. The organization does all of its own maintenance. They coordinate with the school district for any construction activities (sheds, etc.). The organization does not utilize city parks other than Westedge Park.
- Concerns: there are not adequate bathrooms, and water facilities at Dyer; the organization uses portable restroom facilities. There is power at two diamonds, but there is additional need for electricity on diamond 4 (which is also the best place for restrooms). Diamond 4 has drainage issues and when the field is too wet games are cancelled because there is no alternative field.
- Funding: the organization does not do fundraisers. Participants are charged \$30 per child which is used for uniforms and umpires. Volunteerism is vital.
- Other: the organization is starting to get more players from outside the community. The program is a learning league that is focused on recreation. Congress Field is not used by this organization. Good cooperation with the school district allows the league to function.

Burlington Schools (Cooper PTO)

- Organization: there are five elementary schools, one intermediate school, one middle school, and one high school in the Burlington Area School District. Many user groups including Burlington Girl's Softball, and Burlington Spiders Youth Football rely on school facilities to support their organizations.
- Concerns: the park system lacks facilities for teens (there is no longer a skateboard park). Swimming lessons are lacking and can be expensive when offered through the Burlington Wellness Center (Memorial Hospital). Echo Lake provides the best skating venue in the city and needs to be regularly plowed and maintained because there aren't many other local winter activity options. There should be more education programming through the parks system (science clubs, geocaching, etc.). Current pool hours do not accommodate adult open swimming. There is a need for additional soccer and baseball facilities (always in full use). There could be better geographic distribution of facilities – the west side has fewer recreation fields and amenities.
- Funding: users fees for programs and activities are okay up to a point but they can be exclusionary.

General Summary

Value and Condition of Current Burlington Park System

All respondents were asked to provide their opinion on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the "best" or "highest" about the current condition and importance of parks in Burlington. Table 1 indicates the average ranking for each question was around "4". This seems to indicate that most respondents feel very strongly that the current parks system is in excellent condition and is an asset to the community. All eleven respondents rated the quality of life in Burlington as either a "4" or "5".

Table 1: Summary of Scaled-Response Questions	Response Average*
How would you rate the "quality of life" in the Burlington Area?	4.36
How would you rate the condition of the current park system?	3.91
Where to you rate the importance of providing adequate parks facilities and programs as part of the city's infrastructure?	4.45

*scale of 1-5 with 5 being the "highest" or "best"

Recurring Themes

Bike Trail: trails within the city do not currently link to major state and county trails to provide through travel. STH 36 was mentioned several times as unaccommodating to cyclists. Most respondents preferred an off-street connection from existing trails east of town to the White River Trail west of town.

Recreation Field Development: there was a stated need for additional soccer and baseball fields. There was also some concern there are not enough recreational fields located in the western part of the city.

User Groups: it is apparent that user groups (football, soccer, baseball, softball) exist, in part, because they are capable and willing to participate in cost sharing with the city.

Need for Continued Intergovernmental Coordination

Many of the recreational programs that are offered in the city rely on use of city, county and school district facilities. Most of the agreements that enable use and maintenance of these facilities are unwritten and informal.

Burlington CORP

Please indicate the overall condition of each type of recreational facility that your community offers.					
	Excellent	Good	Need Improvement/Poor	Not Applicable	Response Count
Baseball/Softball Fields	24.3% (27)	56.8% (63)	15.3% (17)	3.6% (4)	111
Basketball Courts	7.5% (8)	35.5% (38)	43.0% (46)	14.0% (15)	107
Boating	14.7% (16)	44.0% (48)	15.6% (17)	25.7% (28)	109
Camping	4.6% (5)	15.6% (17)	28.4% (31)	51.4% (56)	109
Fishing Access	18.3% (20)	53.2% (58)	15.6% (17)	12.8% (14)	109
Football Fields	13.2% (14)	52.8% (56)	16.0% (17)	17.9% (19)	106
Gardens	8.1% (9)	50.5% (56)	29.7% (33)	11.7% (13)	111
Golf Courses	17.8% (19)	53.3% (57)	8.4% (9)	20.6% (22)	107
Historic/Educational Sites	8.3% (9)	64.2% (70)	22.0% (24)	5.5% (6)	109
Hunting	6.6% (7)	16.0% (17)	17.9% (19)	59.4% (63)	106
Multi-Use Fields	6.5% (7)	60.7% (65)	24.3% (26)	8.4% (9)	107
Picnic Areas	17.4% (20)	62.6% (72)	19.1% (22)	0.9% (1)	115
Playgrounds	22.4% (26)	61.2% (71)	16.4% (19)	0.0% (0)	116
Soccer Fields	13.8% (15)	41.3% (45)	32.1% (35)	12.8% (14)	109
Swimming	7.1% (8)	46.9% (53)	36.3% (41)	9.7% (11)	113
Tennis Courts	8.2% (9)	36.4% (40)	48.2% (53)	7.3% (8)	110
Trails	8.6% (10)	62.9% (73)	21.6% (25)	6.9% (8)	116
Volleyball Courts	2.8% (3)	21.3% (23)	48.1% (52)	27.8% (30)	108
Winter Sports	6.6% (7)	31.1% (33)	49.1% (52)	13.2% (14)	106
	answered question				121
	skipped question				3




2. Considering the same group of facilities, please indicate whether or not your community has sufficient resources for each type to meet the demand.

	Sufficient	More needed in the future	Not Applicable	Response Count
Baseball/Softball Fields	70.6% (72)	23.5% (24)	5.9% (6)	102
Basketball Courts	35.9% (37)	54.4% (56)	9.7% (10)	103
Boating	54.0% (54)	23.0% (23)	23.0% (23)	100
Camping	23.5% (24)	40.2% (41)	36.3% (37)	102
Fishing Access	63.7% (65)	24.5% (25)	11.8% (12)	102
Football Fields	58.8% (60)	31.4% (32)	9.8% (10)	102
Garden	48.5% (49)	42.6% (43)	8.9% (9)	101
Golf Courses	68.0% (68)	19.0% (19)	13.0% (13)	100
Historic/Educational Sites	54.8% (57)	40.4% (42)	4.8% (5)	104
Hunting	34.7% (34)	23.5% (23)	41.8% (41)	98
Multi-Use Fields	38.5% (40)	55.8% (58)	5.8% (6)	104
Picnic Area	61.3% (65)	37.7% (40)	0.9% (1)	106
Playgrounds	65.0% (67)	34.0% (35)	1.0% (1)	103
Soccer Fields	48.0% (49)	43.1% (44)	8.8% (9)	102
Swimming	42.3% (44)	55.8% (58)	1.9% (2)	104
Tennis Courts	49.5% (50)	43.6% (44)	6.9% (7)	101
Trails	40.4% (42)	55.8% (58)	3.8% (4)	104
Volleyball Courts	32.7% (34)	52.9% (55)	14.4% (15)	104
Winter Sports	28.0% (28)	63.0% (63)	9.0% (9)	100
	answered question			112
	skipped question			12




3. Considering the various age groups or clusters of people in your community, please indicate whether the existing facilities are able to adequately meet their needs. If needs are not currently met, please specify what is lacking in the blank box below.

	Adequately Served	Needs Not Currently Met	Not Sure	Response Count
Families	59.8% (58)	29.9% (29)	10.3% (10)	97
Toddlers 0-5 years	59.8% (61)	23.5% (24)	16.7% (17)	102
Children 5-12 years	64.4% (65)	27.7% (28)	7.9% (8)	101
Adolescents 13-18 years	33.7% (34)	55.4% (56)	10.9% (11)	101
Adults 19-54 years	49.0% (49)	38.0% (38)	13.0% (13)	100
Seniors 55+ years	39.2% (38)	32.0% (31)	28.9% (28)	97
If needs from any/all groups are not currently met, please comment here.				48
answered question				108
skipped question				16




4. What are the two most popular resources or activities provided for families?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Resource/Activity 1		90.8%	69
Resource/Activity 2		82.9%	63
Not Sure		10.5%	8
answered question			76
skipped question			48




5. What are the two most popular resources or activities for pre-school children?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Resource/Activity 1		86.1%	62
Resource/Activity 2		59.7%	43
Not Sure		13.9%	10
	answered question		72
	skipped question		52

6. What are the two most popular resources or activities supplied for children 5-12 years of age?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Resource/Activity 1		84.9%	62
Resource/Activity 2		69.9%	51
Not Sure		15.1%	11
	answered question		73
	skipped question		51

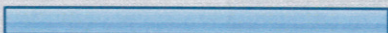

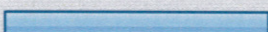
7. What are the two most popular resources or activities supplied for adolescents?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Resource/Activity 1		69.2%	45
Resource/Activity 2		52.3%	34
Not Sure		33.8%	22
	answered question		65
	skipped question		59

8. What are the two most popular resources or activities supplied for adults 19-54 years of age?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Resource/Activity 1		80.3%	53
Resource/Activity 2		53.0%	35
Not Sure		19.7%	13
	<i>answered question</i>		66
	<i>skipped question</i>		58

9. What are the two most popular resources or activities supplied for Seniors 55+ years of age?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Resource/Activity 1		59.4%	38
Resource/Activity 2		46.9%	30
Not Sure		40.6%	26
	<i>answered question</i>		64
	<i>skipped question</i>		60






10. State which outdoor recreation activity(s) you predict will gain in popularity in this area over the next 5 years.

	Response Count
	78
<i>answered question</i>	78
<i>skipped question</i>	46

11. State which outdoor recreation facilities, trails, or program that are not currently provided in your area that should be provided.

	Response Count
	66
<i>answered question</i>	66
<i>skipped question</i>	58

12. Please indicate which if any of the following support components are inadequate at any of the facilities in your area. Select all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Public Restrooms 	66.2%	49
Parking 	48.6%	36
Handicap Accessibility 	17.6%	13
Shelter 	25.7%	19
Public Transportation to the Facility 	45.9%	34
<i>answered question</i>		74
<i>skipped question</i>		50

13. Please indicate the park locations and inadequate support components listed above.

	Response Count
	41
<i>answered question</i>	41
<i>skipped question</i>	83

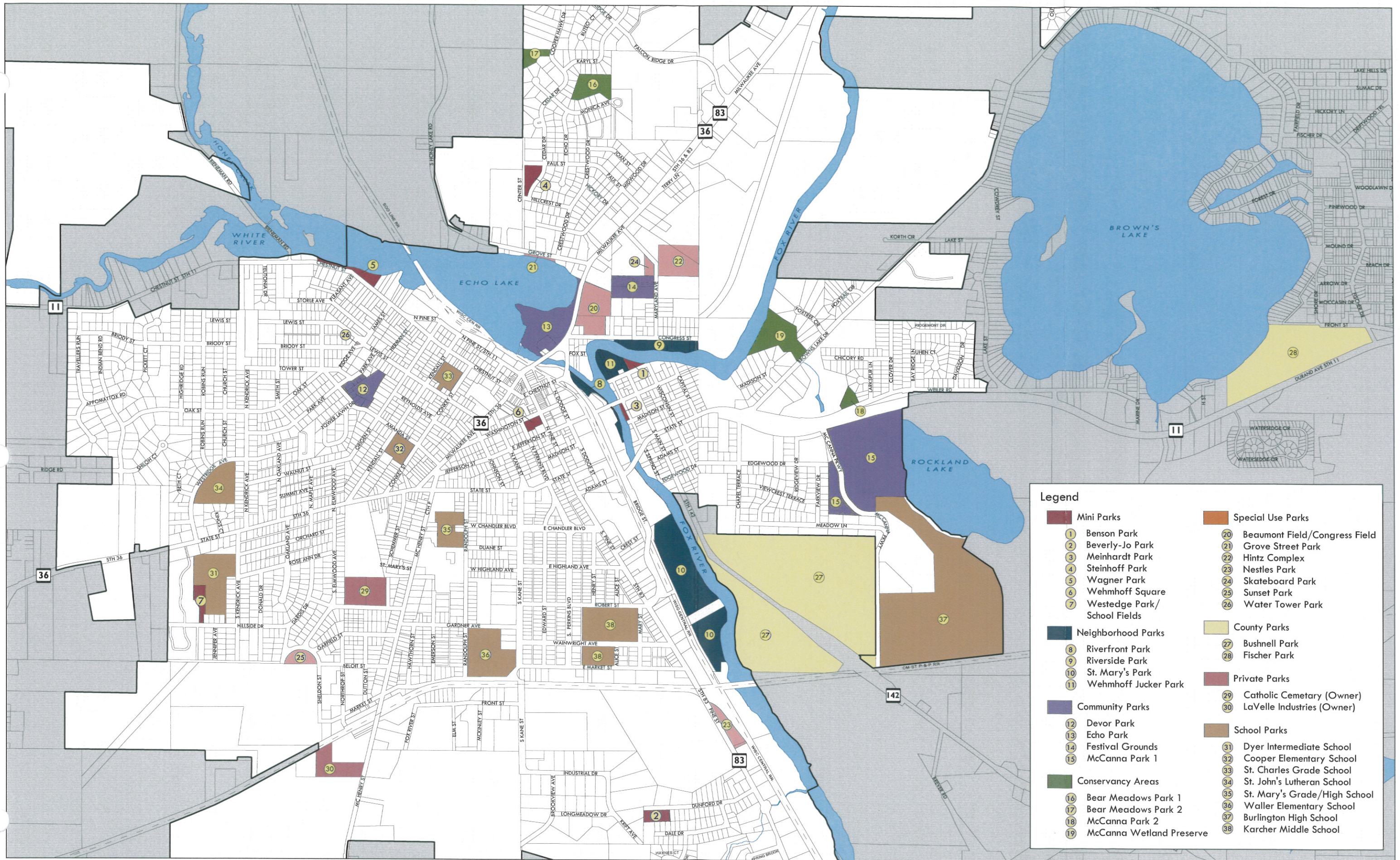
14. Considering the needs your area has for additional outdoor recreational facilities, resources, and programs, please rate the following in order of importance with 1 being the most urgent and 5 being the least urgent.

	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
Maintenance of Existing Facilities	44.8% (39)	18.4% (16)	14.9% (13)	14.9% (13)	6.9% (6)	87
Increased Staffing	3.5% (3)	17.6% (15)	30.6% (26)	21.2% (18)	28.2% (24)	85
Improvements Added to Existing Facilities	30.7% (27)	35.2% (31)	18.2% (16)	8.0% (7)	9.1% (8)	88
Development of New Facilities	31.8% (28)	20.5% (18)	17.0% (15)	19.3% (17)	11.4% (10)	88
Offer Additional Programs	23.9% (21)	23.9% (21)	21.6% (19)	17.0% (15)	14.8% (13)	88
	answered question					91
	skipped question					33

Appendix B:

Plan Figures

			Passive Areas					Informal Active Games					Hard Surfaced Courts					Seasonal										Trails					Special Event Areas			Service and Buffer																
Designation		Acreage	Facility	Open Space	Disc golf	Picnic area	Play equipment	Biking/walking	Soccer	Sandlot backstop	Baseball	Softball/baseball	Football	Sand Volleyball	Basketball	Tennis	Horseshoes	Skateboard Area	BMX / Freestyle Bike	Pool/Splash Pad	Swimming Beach	Golf Course/Driving Range	Archery Range	Camping Facilities	Hockey	Ice Skating	Sledding	Fishing Area	Xcountry Skiing	Boat Launch	River/Lake Access	Pedestrian	Multi-Use	Mountain Bike	Snowmobile	Performance Stage	Zoo	Event area	Other building	Restrooms	Picnic Shelter	Pedestrian Access	Transit Capabilities	Drinking Water	ADA Accessibility	Bicycle Parking	Automobile Parking					
MP		0.55	Benson Park	●																								●			●																					
		1.63	Beverly-Jo Park	●				●		●																		●			●	●	●	●															●			
		0.34	Meinhardt Park	●																											●																					
		1.69	Steinhoff Park	●			●							●														●						●							●											
		1.59	Wagner Park	●			●																					●				●																	●	●		
		0.87	Wehmhoff Square			●																							●					●					●								●	●				
		1.69	Westedge Park/School Fields	●								●																																				●	●			
Sub Total		8.36																																																		
NP		1.66	Riverfront Park	●		●		●																								●	●																			
		4.35	Riverside Park	●		●	●							●															●			●																		●	●	
		21.33	St. Mary's Park	●		●		●																								●		●																●	●	
		3.28	Wehmhoff Jucker Park	●		●		●						●	●														●			●		●																●	●	
Sub Total		30.62																																																		
CP		4.63	Devor Park	●		●	●								●	●					●							●																						●	●	
		10.48	Echo Park	●		●	●	●																					●			●		●		●														●	●	
		5.05	Festival Grounds	●																																														●	●	
		33.30	McCanna Park 1	●		●	●	●																								●																			●	●
Sub Total		53.46																																																		
SP		7.42	Beaumont Field/Congress Field								●	●																				●																		●	●	
		0.31	Grove Street Park																																																	
		6.71	Hintz Complex	●							●																																									
		2.44	Nestles Park	●																																																
		0.84	Skateboard Park															●																																●	●	
		1.91	Sunset Park	●						●							●																																	●	●	
		0.06	Water Tower Park	●																																																
Sub Total		19.69																																																		
CONS		4.24	Bear Meadows Park 1																																																	
		1.66	Bear Meadows Park 2																																																	
		1.20	McCanna Park 2																																						</											



Legend





Park Service Areas

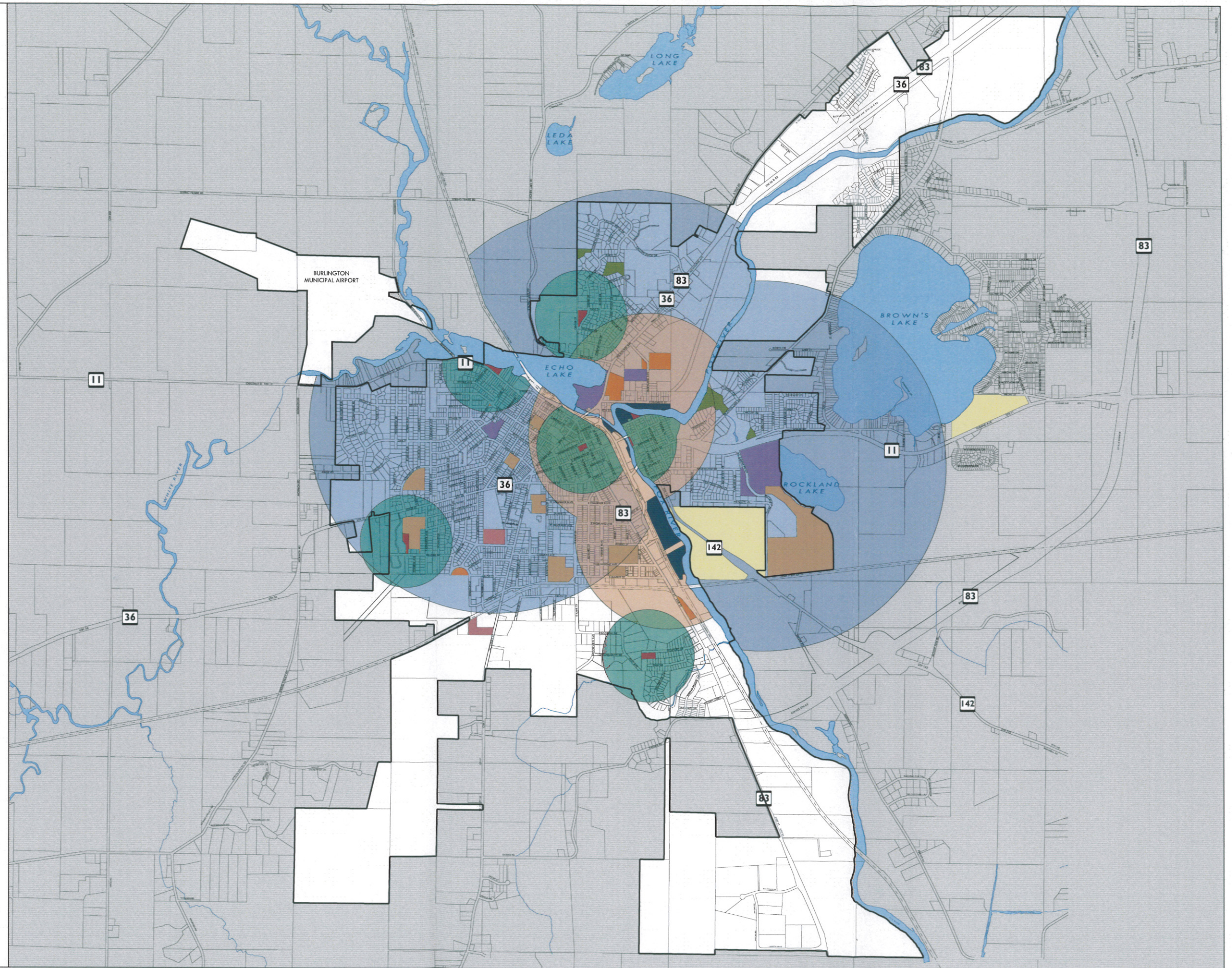
-  Mini Park ($\frac{1}{4}$ Mile)
-  Neighborhood Park ($\frac{1}{2}$ Mile)
-  Community Park (1 Mile)

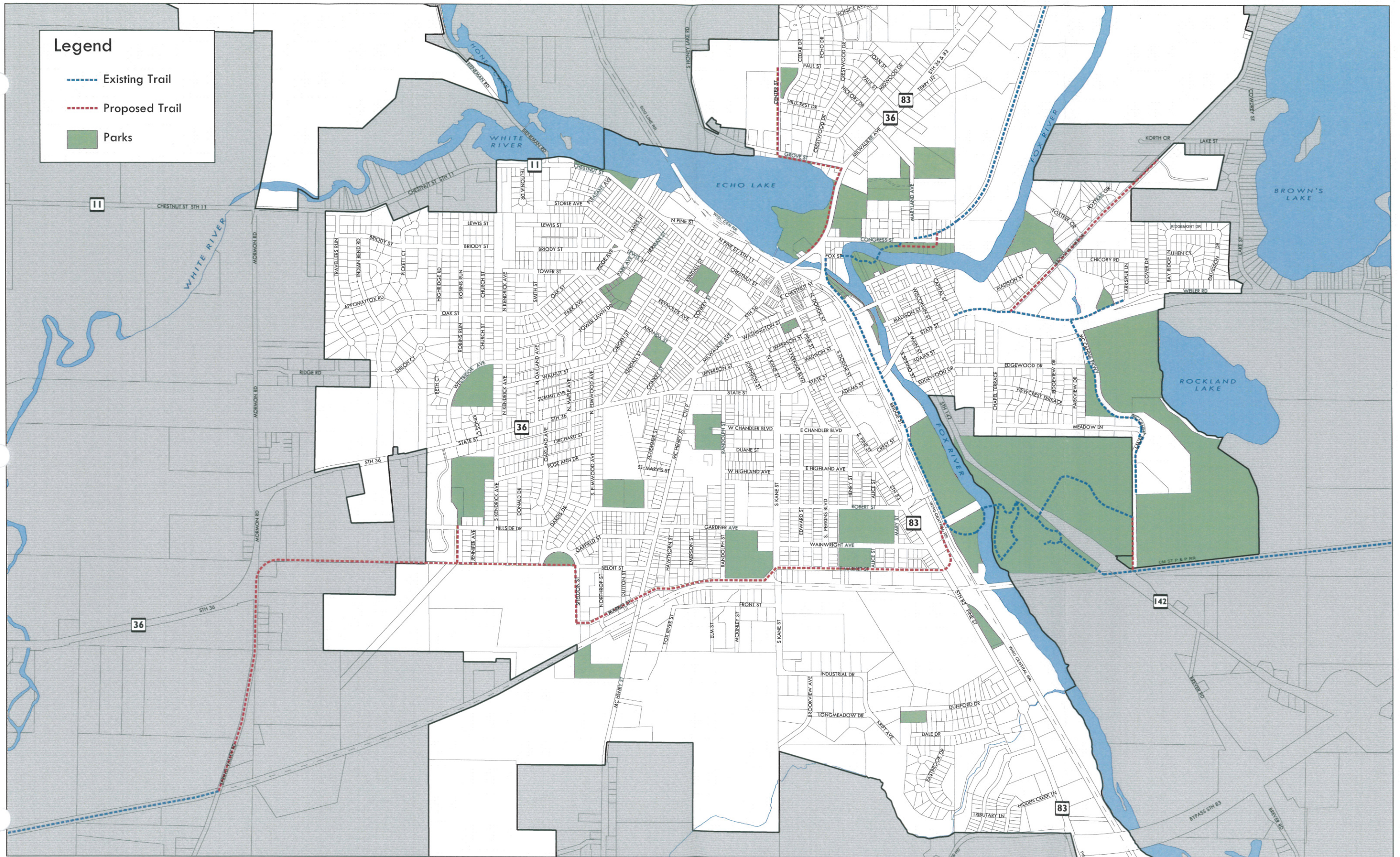
Parks

-  Mini Parks
-  Neighborhood Parks
-  Community Parks
-  Special Use Parks
-  Conservancy Areas
-  County Parks
-  Private Parks
-  School Parks

Other Features

-  Railroad
-  Stream
-  Water
-  City of Burlington





Legend

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Parks





- Legend**
- Park Boundary
 - Existing Trail
 - Proposed Trail
 - Existing Bridge
 - Proposed Shoreline Stabilization
 - Proposed ADA Fishing Platform

Appendix C:

Approving Resolution

